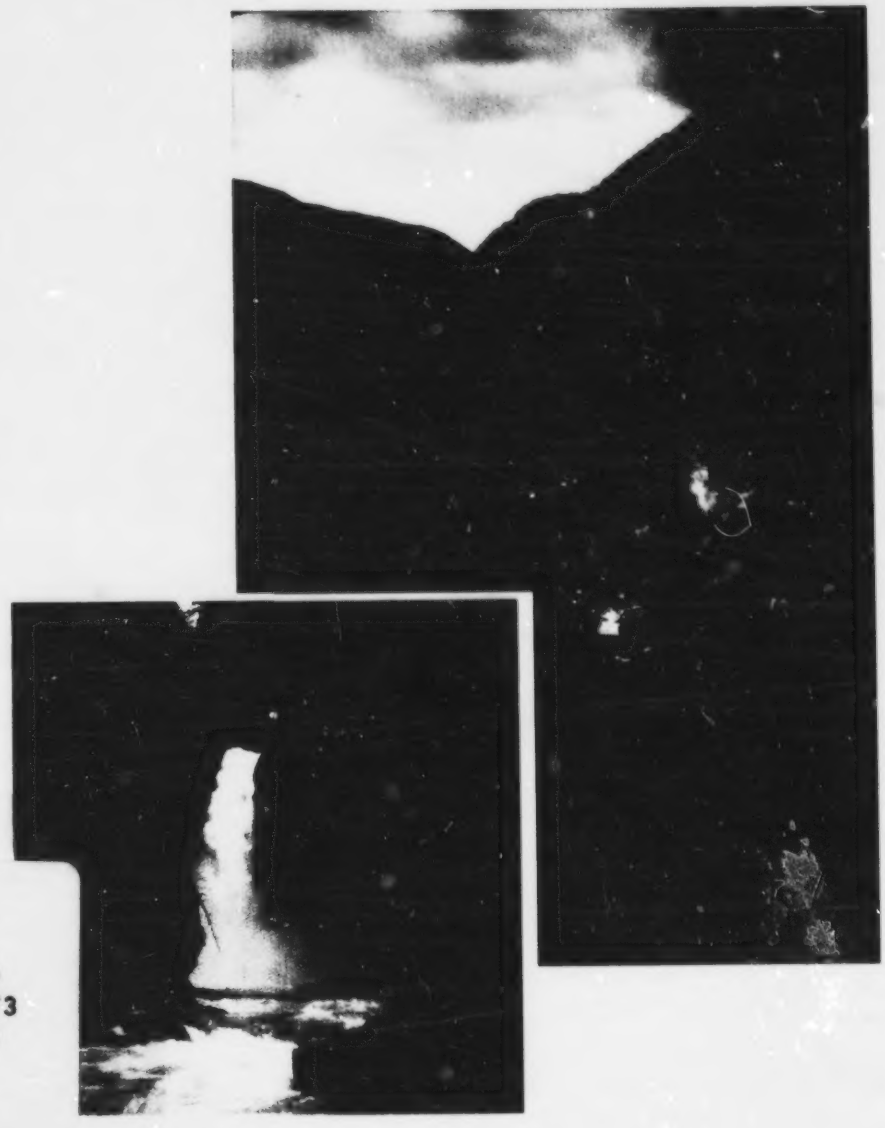
MANAGEMENT PLAN

June, 2000



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STEIN VALLEY NLAKA'PAMUX HERITAGE PARK
PROVINCIAL PARK

MANAGEMENT PLAN

We are pleased to approve this management plan for Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park. The Park is jointly managed by the Lytton First Nation and BC Parks.

The management plan emphasizes that the park has been designated and managed to highlight and protect the Lytton First Nation's culture and history, and the outstanding wilderness values of the Stein Valley.

We commit to work towards meeting the vision and objectives as set out in this management plan.

Approved by:

Janet Webster, Chief
Lytton First Nations
(Lytton Indian Band)

Date: June 30th, 2000

Joan Sawicki
Minister
Environment, Lands & Parks

Date: June 30, 2000

Witnessed By:

Ujjal Dosanjh
Premier

Date: June 30/2000

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STEIN VALLEY NLAKA'PAMUX HERITAGE PARK
PROVINCIAL PARK

MANAGEMENT PLAN

Approved by:

Monty Downs
District Manager

Date: 00-05-25

Denis O'Gorman
Assistant Deputy Minister

Date: June 26, 2000

STEIN VALLEY NLAKA'PAMUX HERITAGE PARK
PROVINCIAL PARK

MANAGEMENT PLAN

The attached Management Plan for Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park is endorsed by all members of the Stein Management Board. The Management Plan meets the intent and requirements as set out by the Cooperative Management Agreement between the Lytton First Nation and the Government of British Columbia.

Approved by:

Ruby Dunstan — Date: June 13, 2000
Ruby Dunstan
Stein Management Board Co-Chair
Representing Lytton First Nations (Lytton Indian Band)

John Haugen — Date: June 13, 2000
John Haugen
Representing Lytton First Nations (Lytton Indian Band)

Bernadine Alcock — Date: June 13, 2000
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Representing Lytton First Nations (Lytton Indian Band)

Earl Sinclair — Date: June 13, 2000
Earl Sinclair
Stein Management Board Co-Chair
Representing BC Parks

Carl Powell — Date: June 13, 2000
Carl Powell
Representing BC Parks

Rob Enns — Date: June 13, 2000
Rob Enns
Representing BC Parks

STEIN VALLEY NLAKA'PAMUX HERITAGE PARK
PROVINCIAL PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN
SIGNING WITNESSES

Date: June 30, 2000

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgments iii

Plan Highlights 1

Introduction

The Management Planning Process 2

Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park Management Plan 2

Background to Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park 3

Planning Issues 5

Natural Resource Management Issues 5

Cultural Heritage Resource Management 5

Recreation - Tourism Management 5

First Nations Relations 6

Management of Park Values 7

Management and Development of Recreational Opportunities 7

Background Summary 8

Vision Statement

What is a Vision Statement? 11

Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park Vision Statement 13

The Role of the Park

Regional and Provincial Context 14

Roles 15

Conservation Role 15

Cultural Heritage Role 15

Recreation Role 16

Natural and Cultural Interpretation and Education Role 18

Special Management Considerations

Introduction 19

Relationship with the Lytton First Nation 19

Park Zoning

Introduction 22

Wilderness Conservation Zone 22

Wilderness Recreation Zone 24

Natural Environment Zone 24

Intensive Recreation Zone 25

Natural and Cultural Values and their Management

Introduction 26
Cultural Heritage Values 26
Land 29
Water 29
Vegetation 30
Wildlife 33
Aquatic Resources 34
Aesthetic Values 35
Outdoor Recreation Features 36
Scientific Research and Education 37

Recreation Opportunities and Management

Introduction 38
Recreation Outdoor Opportunities 40
Access Strategy 40
Backcountry Hiking and Backpacking 42
Mountaineering 44
Angling 45
Hunting 45
Boating 46
Winter Recreation 46
Horse Use 46
Commercial Activities 47
Management Services 48

Communications

Introduction 49
Marketing and Promotion 49
Information and Awareness 50
Orientation Information at Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park 51

Cultural Interpretation 51
Natural and Cultural Heritage Education 52

Plan Implementation 54

Appendices

Appendix A: Goals for Protected Areas 55
Appendix B: BC Parks Recreation Goals 56
Appendix C: BC Parks Management Planning Zone Descriptions 57

Maps

Base Map 9
Regional Context Map 17
Zoning Map 23
Access Map 41

Acknowledgements

Development of this Management Plan was coordinated through the Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park Management Board, with advice from BC Parks Headquarters. The Management Board contributed considerable time and effort in coordinating, reviewing and providing direction for the plan. Many individuals and groups, including key conservation and recreation groups, and various government agencies provided valuable feedback in the development and review of the plan. Input and advice received from the Nlaka'pamux Elders was of particular significance.

This Management Plan has been prepared by BC Parks through the consulting services of J. McCandless and Associates Ltd. of North Vancouver and by Edley Maps & Graphics Inc.

Plan Highlights

- The Lytton First Nation will participate with the Government of British Columbia as an equal partner in the planning and management of the area.

- The Cooperative Management Agreement and Sub-Agreements between the Provincial Government and the Lytton First Nation provided the context for developing the management and zoning concepts for the park.

- Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park is an intact wilderness watershed containing world class cultural features, provincially significant wilderness values and a diversity of undisturbed ecosystems. The Park Vision and Role, as described in the Management Plan, maintain these values in perpetuity.

- Park Zoning places emphasis on protecting the wilderness integrity of the Park, while recognizing long established trails and patterns of use. A Wilderness Conservation Zone maintains a large part of the park lying south of the Stein River as pristine wilderness with no evidence of human intrusion. A large Wilderness Recreation Zone is also directed to maintain wilderness values, with minimal facilities to keep the few traditional trails open and to maintain critical river crossings. The lower section of the Stein River is zoned as Natural Environment to reflect more intense levels of use and management with primary focus on appreciation of the cultural and natural features of this part of the Park. A small area at the entrance to the Stein Valley trail is zoned as "Intensive Recreation" to allow for development of trailhead facilities.

- Resource Management will be guided by the overriding principle of allowing natural processes to occur over the majority of the park while protecting specific botanical, wildlife, cultural and recreation values. Park management will also integrate with land and resource management objectives for adjacent outside areas.

- Recreation opportunities, levels of use, types and scale of public and commercial recreation services are based on maintaining the high quality wilderness character of the park.

- Access management to and within the Park is critical to retain wilderness qualities. Maintenance of road access to the periphery of the park to a few key points is recommended. No mechanized access for recreation purposes is permitted in the park including the use of aircraft and helicopters.

- Park management will continue to highlight the cultural heritage of the Lytton Nlaka'pamux in the watershed and to protect, preserve and encourage traditional Nlaka'pamux and Stl'atl'imx sustenance, cultural, spiritual and ceremonial activities in the area. Utilization of the park for the interpretation of First Nations traditions and use will be encouraged.

Introduction

The Management Planning Process

A management plan is prepared as a document to guide park management. It sets out objectives and strategies for conservation, recreation use, interpretation and operation of a park. The intent is to reach a balance between conservation and recreation based on the Vision Statement for the park.

This management plan relies on information relating to natural and cultural heritage resources, cultural uses, spiritual uses, recreation uses and activities occurring in the park and on surrounding lands. The process for preparing a plan involves analysis of park resources, the overall goals of the park, patterns of use and management objectives. Through this process, various options for managing the park are assessed for their ability to reach a balance between protecting natural and cultural heritage resources from damage and managing human uses of the area.

BC Parks' management plans are prepared utilizing public input and both the general public and public-interest groups have opportunities to provide comments through a variety of means.

In the case of the Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux (pronounced Ing-khla-kap-muh) Heritage Park (SVNHP), the management planning process has relied upon feedback generated through consultation with First Nations and through participation of interagency, stakeholder and public groups. Important guiding documents have been the *Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park Cooperative Management Agreement* and three related Sub-Agreements addressing (1) *Fish and Wildlife*, (2) *Cultural Heritage &* (3) *Tourism*. As well, the Provincial Management Principles for Protected Areas have been used as a key reference.

As a first step, a background document was assembled to present known information on the natural and cultural heritage resources of the Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park. This document listed a series of issues that would need to be considered. The complete Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park Background Document is available from BC Parks.

Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park Management Plan

The purpose of this management plan is to guide protection, conservation and interpretation of the rich and important cultural heritage, ecological and scenic values of the Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park while allowing for appropriate recreational activities. This is a strategic level plan that is not intended to provide operational details.

The management plan for Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park addresses a number of interrelated issues. Where pertinent, these issues are discussed in the context of the agreements

presented in the Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park Cooperative Management Agreement between the Government of British Columbia and the Lytton First Nation.

Each section of the management plan provides a brief summary of relevant background information and focuses on management issues and objectives.

The Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park Management Plan consists of eight main sections:

1) context of the plan, highlighting the planning issues that are addressed and providing a summary of background information on the park;

2) the Vision Statement for the park, describing critical goals and principles that establish a long-term foundation for managing the park;

3) the role of the park, describing the essence and importance of the park;

4) special considerations in working with the Lytton First Nation to manage and operate the park;

5) park zoning which defines how different areas of the park will be managed in consistency with BC Parks objectives for managed areas;

6) objectives for managing the cultural heritage and natural values of the park;

7) objectives for providing and maintaining outdoor recreation opportunities in the park; and,

8) a communications strategy.

An implementation strategy, including operational details, will be developed by the SVNHP Management Board. Since the board cannot carry out every task at the same time, the implementation strategy must set priorities for management actions. It is the intent of the implementation strategy that much of the actualization will be done by the Lytton First Nation as specified in the SVNHP Cooperative Management Agreement. The SVNHP implementation strategy will be a public document subject to annual review.

Background to Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park

The watershed, and thus the park, is named from the Nlaka'pamux word "Stagyn", which means 'hidden place'.

Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park was established on November 22, 1995, through an Order-in-Council 1411 under the Park Act and on November 23 of that year the provincial government announced the entire watershed would be permanently protected as a Class A Provincial Park, to be managed cooperatively by the province and the Lytton First Nation.

At the same time as the park was announced a cooperative management agreement was signed by the Government of British Columbia and the Lytton First Nation. This agreement provides assurances that "the concept and theme of the Park is carried by and embodied in its full name: Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park, A Living Museum of Cultural and Natural History. Management and development of the Park will be guided by this concept and will be designed to complement and highlight the historical and cultural presence of the Lytton Nlaka'pamux in the Stein watershed, as well as to preserve and maintain traditional Lytton Nlaka'pamux sustenance, cultural and ceremonial activities in the area."

Since designation, the park has been managed under the direction of a management board convened to oversee and manage all initiatives and undertakings relating to the planning, operation and management of the park. This board is comprised of three representatives of the Government of British Columbia and three representatives of the Lytton First Nation. Through the activities of the SVNHP Management Board, BC Parks and the Lytton First Nation work in a cooperative and congenial manner in the management of the park.

Historically, advocacy during the 1970's resulted in a two-year development moratorium to study management options for the Stein and the formation of the first of many environmental coalitions for preserving the watershed.

During the 1980's and early 1990's, the Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council submitted a comprehensive land claim including the Stein watershed to the federal government, and the Lillooet Tribal Council and Lytton and Mt. Currie First Nations sponsored annual Voices for the Wilderness Stein Festivals culminating with a 5th festival at Mt. Currie which drew over 26,000 participants.

In 1986, the provincial Wilderness Advisory Committee recommended that "no (logging access) road be built without a formal agreement between the Lytton Indian Band and the provincial government," and, in 1987, the Lytton and Mt. Currie bands released their Stein Declaration stating "we will maintain the Stein Valley as a wilderness in perpetuity for the enjoyment and enlightenment of all peoples and the enhancement of the slender life thread on this planet."

In 1988, the Nlaka'pamux Nation Development Council submitted a series of seven studies to the provincial government, contending that many important cultural and economic uses of the Stein watershed had previously gone unnoticed and proposing a plan for a guided wilderness tourism approach to economic development in the Stein watershed.

In 1989, the Lytton and Mt. Currie First Nations declared the valley a park, renaming the watershed "Stein Valley Tribal Heritage Park: A Living Museum of Cultural and Natural History."

Prior to November 22, 1995, the area was managed under the *Forest Act* with the Lower Stein Wilderness Area and Upper Stein Wilderness Area designated by Order in Council 1994/94 on October 9, 1987, and including a provision for a resource road to be constructed through the Lower Stein Wilderness Area to facilitate timber harvesting farther up the valley.

Planning Issues

This management plan addresses planning issues identified by BC Parks, the Lytton and Mt. Currie First Nations and the general public. The Stein Valley Park Management Plan Background Report (pages 58 to 70) contains a list of the management planning issues, which are summarized here as follows:

Natural Resource Management Issues

Information

- General lack of information on natural and cultural values.

Fish and Wildlife

- Management of recreation use to minimize fish and wildlife impacts.

Tenures

- Management of a number of pre-existing tenures.

Vegetation Management

- Fire management strategies; recognizing the natural role of fires, insects and disease.
- Management of non-native plant species.

Cultural Heritage Resource Management

- Strategies to gather information needed to make informed management decisions with regard to these resources.
- Management of cultural heritage resources.

Recreation – Tourism Management

- Identification of appropriate activities and levels of use.
- Levels and types of facilities.
- Management guidelines for commercial recreation use.

Zoning

- Zoning to reflect the role and intent of the Park with primary emphasis on protection of conservation and wilderness values.

- Provision for various levels of wilderness use.

Access Management

- Management directions for mechanized, horse and aircraft use of Park.

First Nations Relations

Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park is a part of the traditional territories of the Lytton Nlaka'pamux and Mt. Currie Stl'atl'imx, and protects cultural heritage resources of international significance. The Nlaka'pamux Nation comprehensive land claim includes the Stein watershed as it is an ancient aboriginal hiking trail traversing the valley.

The Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park Cooperative Management Agreement establishes the relationship between the Government of British Columbia and the Lytton First Nation for the co-management of the Stein watershed. The agreement provides assurances to the Lytton First Nation that their rights and interests are not prejudiced by the creation of the park and that planning and management will complement and highlight the historical and cultural presence of the Nlaka'pamux in the Stein watershed, preserving and maintaining traditional cultural, ceremonial and spiritual activities in the area. It also defines the manner in which the Lytton First Nation will participate with the Government of British Columbia as an equal partner in the planning and management of the area and makes a number of prescriptions for the operation of the park.

Upland parts of the Stein Valley are of historical importance in the aboriginal economies of the Mt. Currie First Nation. As well, the Stl'atl'imx Tribal Council and the Mt. Currie First Nation, along with the Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council and the Lytton First Nation, were of vital importance in the effort to conserve the watershed.

The "Stein Declaration" of the Lytton and Mt. Currie Indian Bands, jointly signed by both First Nations in 1987, states that the Stein Valley will be maintained as a wilderness in perpetuity under the cooperative authority of both bands; and in 1989, the Lytton and Mt. Currie First Nations jointly declared the watershed to be the "Stein Valley Tribal Heritage Park: A Living Museum of Cultural and Natural History".
In mid-1995, the Mt. Currie First Nation declined participation in the process of negotiation which led to the signing of the Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park Cooperative Management Agreement between the Lytton First Nation and the provincial government. However, since the time of that signing, the Mt. Currie First Nation has indicated a renewed interest in participation.

Above and beyond the cooperative management agreement, First Nations have sustenance rights for hunting, fishing and food gathering. Aboriginal rights are inherent, not granted rights. In addition, they are constitutionally protected and take precedence over the privileges of non-aboriginals.

This management plan honors the commitment made by the Lytton First Nation and the Government of British Columbia and strengthens the working relationship between the Lytton First Nation and BC Parks. It also helps ensure harmonious relations with other First Nations that have traditionally used the park area.

Management of Park Values

Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park was established to conserve cultural heritage values, vegetation, wildlife and fish habitats, traditional resource management systems and special features.

It protects a large, undisturbed natural system contiguous with environments outside the park. Consequently the need to consider sensitive wildlife and conservation values is paramount, combining the traditional aboriginal systems of resource management practiced in the watershed with modern systems, utilizing the best of both to conserve and sustain the natural diversity of wildlife species and populations over the landscape and to conserve and protect critical habitats.

The park area has made a significant contribution to the aboriginal economies, cultural heritage and spiritual development of the Lytton and Mt. Currie First Nations and this rich legacy must be preserved, protected and encouraged, allowing natural processes to continue while providing for protection of cultural values.

These values can be affected by recreation use in the park and development in and around the park. Conserving park values will depend on obtaining accurate baseline information and closely monitoring and actively managing activities to ensure these values are maintained. The management plan sets direction for management of these resources.

Management and Development of Recreational Opportunities

The park offers outstanding backcountry recreation opportunities and all of those contacted during the management planning process expressed a strong interest in maintaining the high quality wilderness character of the park. The management plan establishes compatible recreation opportunities for the park, identifies suitable locations, and provides direction for acceptable levels of use. It also addresses access management. Lastly, it outlines the type and scale of public and commercial recreation services that are appropriate for this wilderness park.

Background Summary

Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park is a magnificent wilderness watershed situated at the eastern margin of the Coast and Cascade mountains. The park is defined by a ring of peaks and summits enclosing an area of 107,191 hectares. It is an intact watershed ecosystem - a land area drained by one river and consisting of integrated ecosystems that link together to form a single unit. Its broad range of natural features include Ponderosa pine bench lands, remnant glaciers, roaring river canyons, sparkling alpine lakes, flood plain cottonwood forests, broad alpine meadows, and rich Coastal Western Hemlock forests.

The park area has a long history of occupation and use by the Nlaka'pamux people, figures prominently in their legends and present lifestyle, and is part of their comprehensive land claim. A testament to its rich mythic and spiritual heritage, the park contains the greatest concentration of pictographs, or rock writings, within the aboriginal territories of the Nlaka'pamux, including one of the largest rock art sites in Canada and at least seventeen rock writing sites, and one writing on a tree.

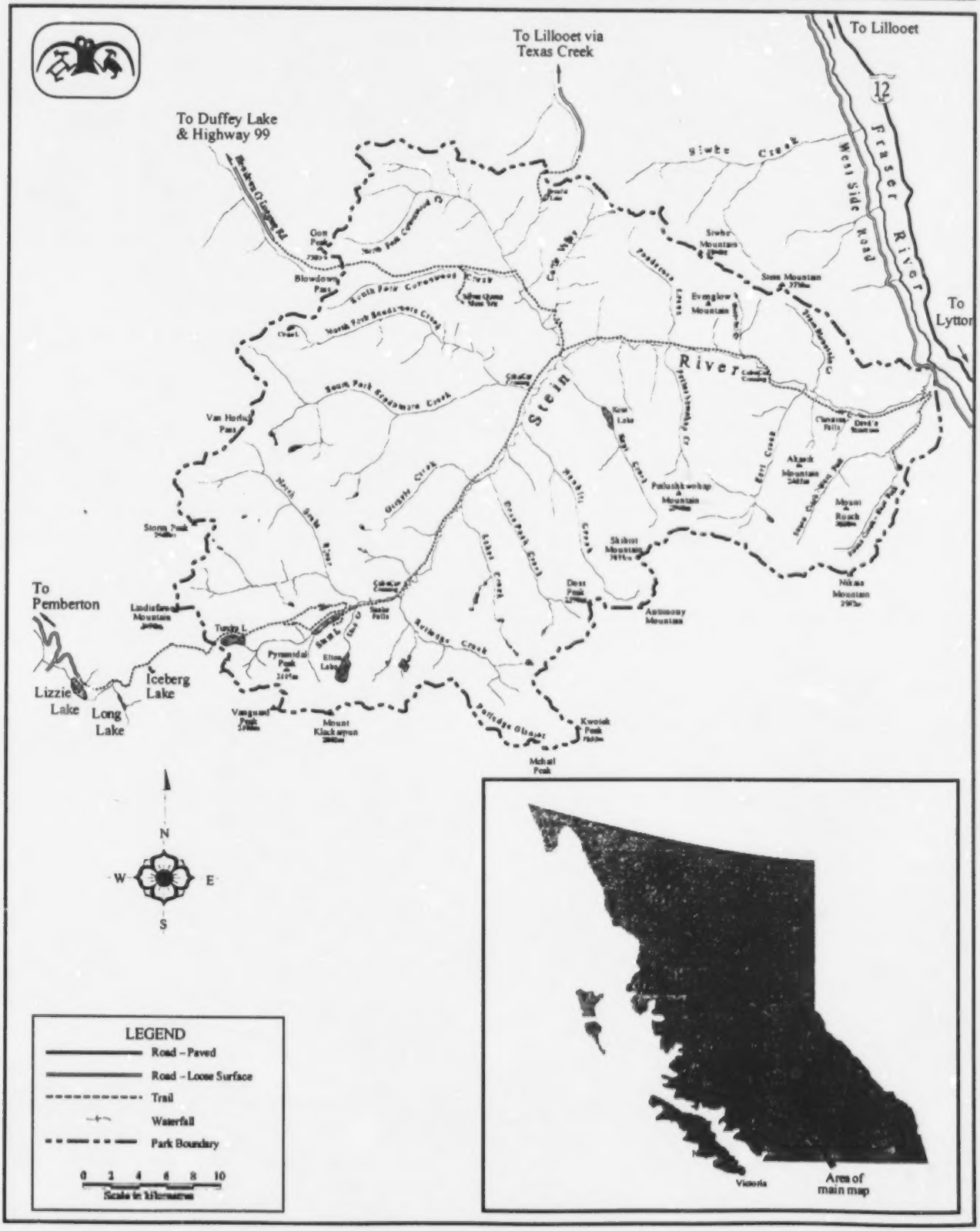
In addition, upland portions of the watershed are significant in the aboriginal economies and history of the neighboring Stl'atl'imx people.

The Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park protects the last remaining free flowing river and undisturbed watershed of significant size in southwestern British Columbia and in close proximity to the population centres in the Lower Mainland. Six biogeoclimatic units are represented in one transitional valley stretching between the dry interior Ponderosa Pine Zone westward to the Coastal Western Hemlock Zone, all within one watershed.

The Stein watershed includes significant grizzly bear range and high-elevation linkages to other habitats surrounding the park, including the Mehatl Provincial Park. Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park provides regionally significant mule deer habitat, black bear, cougar, wolverine, lynx, goat, hoary marmot, pika, water pipits, horned lark, blue grouse, passerines and several species of bats. The Stein River supports a regionally significant fishery both in terms of resident sport species and migratory commercial species. At least seven commercially or recreationally important fish species depend upon the river and its tributaries for all or part of their life cycles. These species include Coho, Chinook and Pink Salmon, Steelhead and Rainbow trout, Dolly Varden Char and Rocky Mountain Whitefish.

The park has been minimally developed for public recreation and its trails originate in the ancient history of the aboriginal peoples using the area. The main "Stein Heritage Trail" follows the Stein River to traverse the watershed from east to west through the lower canyon, mid-valley, upper canyon to Stein Lake, Tundra Lake and eventually Caltha and Lizzie lakes, outside the park boundary. Several primitive bridges and cable crossings are along this route. Other trails access both forks of Stryen Creek and climb up Cottonwood Creek to the Silver Queen mining road, to the mine itself and to Blowdown Pass. There is also a trail to Brimful Lake via the east fork of Texas Creek.

Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park–Base Map



Several primitive campsites are situated along the main trail traversing the Stein. Food caches designed to discourage scavenging by bears are associated with several of these camps. A more elaborate camp near Cottonwood Creek was developed for the exclusive use of the Stein Rediscovery Youth Program.

The most striking feature of the area relating to its many hiking opportunities is the marked distinction between the lower canyon, and the upper valleys and basins like Scudamore and Cottonwood. The former contains easy walks, cool pockets where tributaries join the main Stein, whitewater rapids, and many archaeological sites, all within fairly easy access of a major highway. The latter can be more demanding in terms of the difficult logging road access, exposure to variable weather and the technical ability needed for safe movement in a rugged alpine environment. The upper valleys and basins offer, however, spectacular views encompassing large portions of the watershed, beautiful alpine lakes and meadows, many readily observable geologic features and a variety of possible ridge routes.

Existing uses focus on wilderness recreation and cultural heritage interpretation activities, cultural interpretation being an important focus of visitors to the lower Stein Valley.

Although the Stein River is not presently used appreciably for canoeing, kayaking, or rafting due to difficult access and variable gradient, interest and use is increasing as technologies and abilities progress. The Lytton Nlaka'pamux historically traversed the meandering eight mile section above the lower cable crossing by canoe.

Apart from aboriginal hunting in the Stein watershed, there is little big game hunting except for occasional parties entering through adjacent roads.

The first few easily accessible miles of the Stein are very popular with local and visiting fishers. Good trout fishing has been reported in much of the river and in Cottonwood and Scudamore Creeks. With the stocking of Stein Lake, a trout fishing area has been provided in the upland area of the watershed.

Although historically there has been less use of the Stein watershed for winter recreation than in nearby areas, interest in winter recreation opportunities within the park is increasing.

At the time the park was established there were a number of land tenures and resource users in and adjacent to Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park that might have bearing on park management activities or visitor use. These include the Nlaka'pamux Nation Comprehensive Land Claim, one private inholding, one guide territory, traplines, one grazing tenure, mineral claims, water tenures and Land Act tenures.

The park provides many outstanding recreational opportunities, conserves significant physical, biological, cultural and historical features. Since the Stein is the only major undeveloped watershed within close proximity to Lower Mainland populations, its long-term use for backcountry activities is likely to increase if the demand for backcountry travel continues to grow, and as urban populations continue to expand.

Vision Statement

What is a Vision Statement?

A Vision Statement establishes what we, as a society, want to see for a protected area over one to two centuries. Being clear about the long-term vision helps to guide what should be done in the short-term. The Vision Statement is an important guide when reacting to changing demands for recreation or when incorporating new approaches to conservation or cultural heritage management.

A long-term vision for this park is best stated in the Stein Declaration signed by Lytton Chief Ruby Dunstan and Mt. Currie Chief Leonard Andrew on October 5, 1987.

The Lytton and Mt. Currie First Nations' Stein Declaration includes the following statements:

"As the direct descendants of those aboriginal peoples who have inhabited, shared, sustained, and been sustained by the Stein Valley for tens-of-thousands of years down to the present, our authority in this watershed is inescapable. The responsibility we bear for protection of the Stein has been passed to us by our ancestors from our earliest memories."

"It is our forebears who developed the sustainable patterns of resource management in the Stein which leave the valley in its unmarred state today. Our tread has been deliberately light, but the spiritual and physical 'footprints' of our peoples are evident for all to see throughout this watershed. To us, the valley is like the pages of a book upon which thousands of years of our history are written."

"For us to exist as a people and a culture, we need to preserve certain of our lands, the only rightful place we have on this earth, in their natural state. We must continue to exercise our responsibility to protect these lands as we have since time began. Our position, which will never waver, is to maintain the forests of the Stein Valley in their natural state forever; to share our valley with other life forms equally; but also to share the valley with those people who can bring to the Stein, a respect for the natural life there similar to that taught us by our ancestors."

"With the help of our elders we pledge to strengthen Stein Rediscovery, the youth program located deep in the Stein's heart and in our hearts as well. Stein Rediscovery builds on the long tradition among our peoples of following Stein Valley pathways to spiritual maturity."

"We will further strengthen the alliances we maintain with those non-native peoples who can respect our values and perspectives, and with these people we will continue to enhance the ages-old system of trails which extends the length and breadth of the Stein Valley and first felt the feet of our forefathers. In this way we can extend the hospitality of our valley to all peoples, and recreate in others the awareness of and respect for the natural world which is our birthright."

"Under the cooperative authority of our two bands we will maintain the Stein Valley as a wilderness in perpetuity for the enjoyment and enlightenment of all peoples and the enhancement of the slender life thread on this planet. In so doing, we are but honoring those ancestors whose legacy to us is the Stein Wilderness, and in turn we extend this same opportunity, legacy, and responsibility to generations yet unborn."

The relationship between the Lytton First Nation and the Government of British Columbia is reflected by the following joint vision for the Park.

Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park
Vision Statement

In the next two centuries Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park, A Living Museum of Cultural and Natural History, will gain renown as a world class cultural heritage site and as a vital wilderness park demonstrating that with proper management large natural systems can flourish in close proximity to large urban populations. The Lytton First Nation will engage an increasingly broadening audience in communication of their history, culture and traditions.

The park will be carefully managed to protect its important and diverse cultural heritage and natural resources and provide recreation activities in balance with First Nations' interests and pursuits.

The park will become an increasingly important representative of an intact wilderness ecosystem - an undisturbed watershed of significant size drained by one of the last remaining free flowing rivers in southwestern British Columbia - and will be the focus of scientific studies probing uninterrupted natural processes and traditional aboriginal systems of resource management.

As development of adjacent lands occurs, the park will be vitally important in conservation of diverse biological resources including plant communities, wildlife, and their habitats. Utilization of vital high-elevation linkages to wildlife habitat outside the park will be better understood and better supported.

Park management will continue to highlight the cultural heritage of the Lytton Nlaka'pamux in the watershed and to protect, preserve and encourage traditional Nlaka'pamux and Stl'atl'imx sustenance, cultural, spiritual and ceremonial activities in the area, which will enjoy a resurgence.

Demand for the park's outstanding backcountry wilderness opportunities and world class cultural heritage interpretation opportunities will continue to grow and park managers will be challenged to balance human use with the conservation of natural processes, cultural activities and natural and cultural resources. Management of visitor numbers to protect the park's cultural heritage and natural ecological integrity and to maintain the park's remote, backcountry setting will be paramount.

Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park will continue to be cooperatively managed by the Lytton First Nation and the Government of British Columbia with many operational activities carried out by the Lytton First Nation.

The Role of the Park

Regional and Provincial Context

Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park is an intact wilderness watershed containing world class cultural heritage features, provincially significant wilderness values and a diversity of undisturbed ecosystems. This watershed has long been acknowledged as an important conservation, cultural interpretation and outdoor recreation area, protecting the last remaining free flowing river and undisturbed watershed of significant size in southwestern British Columbia and in close proximity to the population centres in the Lower Mainland. It should be noted that the Stein River is almost entirely within a protected area comparable to the Clearwater River in Wells Gray Park, the Spatsizi River in Spatsizi Plateau Wilderness Park and the Khutzeymateen River in Khutzeymateen Park.

Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park protects representative sensitive wildlife species such as grizzly bear and wolverine, diverse vegetation and landscapes, world class cultural interpretation opportunities and outstanding backcountry recreation opportunities in a spectacular mountain setting.

From the lower end to its upper limits, the Stein Valley crosses through three ecosections - the Pavillion Ranges, Southern Chilcotin Ranges and Leeward Pacific Ranges. No other protected area provides comparable representation of the wide variety of biogeoclimatic conditions found in these three ecosections. Of particular significance is the representation of dry forest associations of the Southern Chilcotin Ranges ecosection which are either poorly or not captured within the existing protected areas system.

Mehatl Provincial Park, which adjoins the height of land boundary of the Stein Valley at the tributaries of north Stein and Rutledge Creek, has extensive mid to high elevational forest ecosystems of the Leeward Pacific Ranges and Eastern Pacific Ranges ecosections. At 23,860 hectares, Mehatl Park combines with Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park to provide natural continuity over 131,051 hectares, representing the biological, recreational and ecological diversity of the region. These two large parks combine to protect ecosystems and wildlife populations in the transitional zone between the Coast Mountains and the Fraser River.

Stein Valley Park is one of the largest, more remote and pristine of the wilderness parks in the southern part of the province. With perhaps the exception of its lower reaches, the Park is very rugged and generally suited only to experienced backcountry users.

The park's conservation and recreation role is strengthened all the more by the significance this area has in the cultural heritage of the Lytton and Mt. Currie First Nations. Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park offers an opportunity for visitors to gain an understanding of the history, culture and current practices of the Lytton and Mt. Currie First Nations in their traditional territories. Other provincial parks which rank with the Stein Valley for significance of First Nations features and resources include Nisga'a Memorial Lava Bed, Kitlope,

Khutzeymateen, Tatshenshini-Alsek Wilderness, Ts'yl?os, Naikoon, Marble Range, Spatsizi Plateau Wilderness, and Indian Arm parks. Stein Valley is also special for the level of cooperative protected area management First Nations has with BC Parks. Other parks that share this distinction include Steelhead, Nisga'a Memorial Lava Bed, Tatshenshini-Alsek Wilderness, Indian Arm, Khutzeymateen, Kitlope and Ts'yl?os.

Roles

Preservation of wilderness and protection of cultural heritage values were the primary reasons Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park was established. In this context the park adds to the system of protected areas in British Columbia, contributing highly to biogeoclimatic representation, old growth conservation, conservation diversity and viability, naturalness, and recreation representation and diversity. The park also protects world class cultural heritage resources within the Stein watershed and provides continuing opportunities for traditional cultural heritage activities by aboriginal peoples.

Conservation Role

The Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park contributes significantly to provincial protected area strategy conservation goals (see Appendix A) by providing representation of three ecosections and protection of special features associated with traditional uses of First Nations people.

The park protects the last remaining free flowing river and undisturbed watershed ecosystem of significant size in southwestern British Columbia and within easy reach of the population centres in the Lower Mainland. Few rivers in British Columbia traverse such a wide range of landform, climate and vegetation in such a short distance as does the Stein River.

The park is an ecologically significant area in British Columbia, containing transition zones where the plant life changes from dry interior to coastal associations. The park provides a refuge for large mammals such as grizzly bears and includes a critical conservation core for bear habitat, grizzly bear range and high-elevation linkages to other habitats surrounding the park. As a major refuge area, the park forms the core of a large management area that is considered as a critical benchmark for determining the success of the provincial grizzly recovery program. Protection of the Stein River supports both resident sport fish species and migratory commercial fish species.

Cultural Heritage Role

Contained within their natural surroundings, the scale, quality and nature of the Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park's cultural heritage values and features is of national and international significance. The park protects the greatest concentration of pictographs within the aboriginal territories of the Nlaka'pamux, including one of the largest rock art sites in Canada, at least

seventeen rock writing sites and one writing on a tree. The aboriginal trail traversing the watershed is another part of this rich legacy.

The cultural heritage resources in the park are of exceptional importance to local communities. Much of the landscape in the Stein has mythic, ritual, and supernatural significance as well as a "narrative meaning" within the legends and tales of the Nlaka'pamux and Stl'atl'imx people. The mythological and spiritual significance of these landmarks gives eloquent testimony to the spiritual heritage and self-identification of these peoples with the land of this watershed.

Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park protects many sacred sites for the Lytton First Nation and plays an important role in their history and their current resource management practices. The earliest memories of the ancestors and their passage to the present are recorded in, and on, the rocks of the watershed. The Lytton First Nation has indicated its willingness to share this rich legacy with others from differing cultures and nations, but ask that visitors to the valley extend the utmost care and respect to the aboriginal cultural heritage expressed there.

Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park is part of the traditional territory of the Lytton Nlaka'pamux and Mt. Currie Stl'atl'imx and, consequently, offers an opportunity for visitors to gain an understanding of these First Nations within their traditional territories. A primary interest is in sustaining these contemporary aboriginal communities through the use and management of the land and its resources. Activities historically and presently undertaken in the watershed include food, fiber and medicinal plant gathering, fishing, trapping, hunting, ranching, guiding, youth education and cultural, ceremonial and spiritual pursuits.

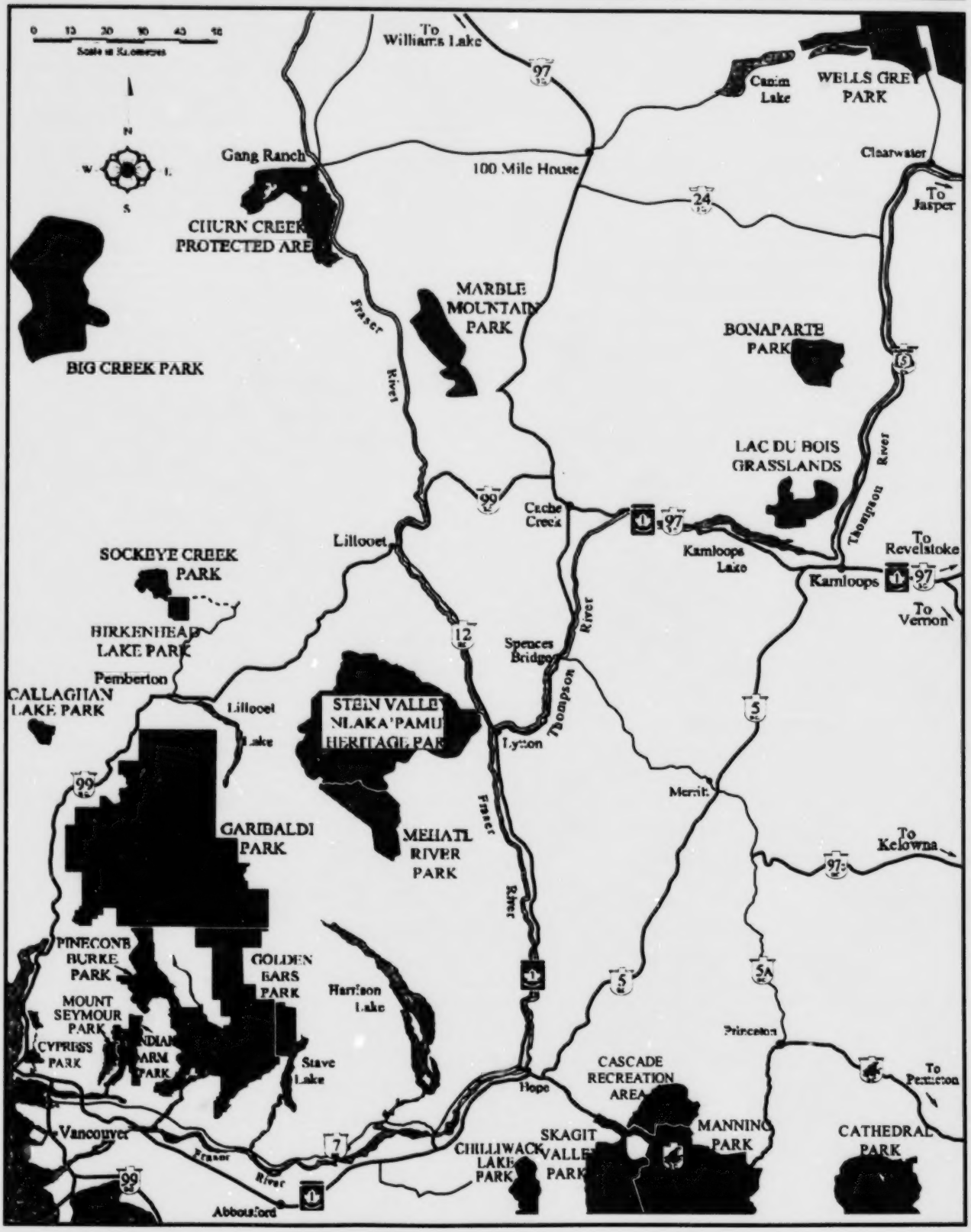
Recreation Role

Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park contributes to BC Parks recreational goals by (see Appendix B) protecting a large, pristine, wilderness environment suitable for the provision of a diversity of outstanding recreational opportunities. The park is in close proximity to the large urban populations in the Lower Mainland and management will need to balance recreational and educational activities with the need to conserve the natural ecosystems, wilderness character and cultural heritage features of the park.

The "Stein Heritage Trail", an aboriginal hiking trail traversing the watershed, provides a variety of opportunities for hiking, multiple day backpacking trips, wilderness recreation and cultural interpretation. This trail is unique in the region since both summer and winter hiking are generally feasible in the scenic and dry lower section with its rich legacy of cultural interpretation opportunities. Unlike other sections which are more demanding, the lower section of the trail provides a relatively safe, attractive setting suitable for hikers with lower skill levels.

A number of forest roads adjacent to the park provide access to the rugged mountains that form the watershed perimeter and contribute high quality wilderness experiences and outstanding backcountry recreation opportunities. The Stein is a big, roadless wilderness area where no mechanized travel is possible and high levels of technical skill and stamina are required. Wilderness hiking, mountaineering and hunting occur in these areas.

Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park–Regional Context



Natural and Cultural Interpretation and Education Role

The park's recreation and conservation roles are strengthened all the more by the significance this area has in the cultural heritage of the Lytton and Mt. Currie First Nations. Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park offers an opportunity for visitors to gain an understanding of the history, culture and current practices of First Nations in their traditional territories, and a key role of the park will be to develop better understanding of traditional aboriginal systems of resource management.

Youth education is key to continuing the First Nations' traditions in the watershed. This education may include puberty rites, vision questing and other practices. In modern times, the Lytton and Mt. Currie First Nations have contributed to the education of non-aboriginal youth, as well, through the Stein Rediscovery Youth Program.

If present urban and industrial development patterns continue, the park will become an increasingly important representative of a large, pristine wilderness ecosystem and will provide important opportunities for study of uninterrupted natural processes.

Activities such as self-guided walks and interpretive displays are popular and can build appreciation of cultural values, history, natural flora and fauna, ecological processes and conservation principles. These activities promote stewardship and support for the park and its values. In addition, they complement the tourism industry of the region and enhance visitor opportunities.

The park provides significant potential for information and interpretation of natural, ecological and geomorphologic processes, Nlaka'pamux cultural heritage and pioneer history.

Special Management Considerations

Introduction

The history of the negotiated creation of Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park has resulted in special management considerations, primarily dealing with the relationship between the Lytton First Nation and the Government of British Columbia.

Relationship with the Lytton First Nation

Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park has been the traditional home of the Lytton Nlaka'pamux. They have hunted, trapped, fished, gathered food, fiber and medicines, and lived and ranched in this area and continue to do so. They have followed spiritual pursuits within the area and continue to do so. This is a contemporary society. The Lytton Nlaka'pamux have revitalized traditional activities and continue to live in close connection with the land, while seeking employment from traditional and contemporary sources.

In seeing the changes to their lifestyle and to land use around them, the Nlaka'pamux are anxious about the implications of the increased profile of their traditional lands. They are apprehensive about the park and its ramifications in negotiation of an eventual treaty. They are also concerned that their lifestyle and their ability to follow traditional practices which may be affected by increased visitation.

At the time of park designation, the Government of British Columbia signed an agreement with the Lytton First Nation to work cooperatively in the management of the park. This agreement describes how the Lytton First Nation and the Government of British Columbia will participate as equal partners in the planning, management and operation of the park. The agreement also provides assurances that the establishment of the park is without prejudice to any aboriginal rights and title that the Lytton First Nation and the Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council may have. The Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park Cooperative Management Agreement and associated sub-agreements addressing Fish & Wildlife, Cultural Heritage and Tourism are important guiding documents to this management plan.

The Cooperative Management Agreement provides for a Management Board comprised of three representatives of British Columbia and three representatives of the Lytton First Nation to "oversee and manage all initiatives and undertakings relating to the planning, operation and management of the Park".

The following are some of the principles that govern the relationship between the Lytton First Nation and the Government of British Columbia in the planning, management and operation of the park:

- As defined by the Cooperative Management Agreement, "the concept and theme of the Park is carried by and embodied in its full name: Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park, A Living Museum of Cultural and Natural History. Management and development of the park will be guided by this concept and will be designed to complement and highlight the historical and cultural presence of the Lytton Nlaka'pamux in the Stein Watershed, as well as to preserve and maintain traditional Lytton Nlaka'pamux sustenance, cultural and ceremonial activities in the area." Members of the Lytton First Nation may continue to extract and harvest the resources of the lands and waters of the park for traditional ceremonial, societal and cultural uses, including but not limited to any practices of cutting selected trees for societal or ceremonial purposes, root digging, bark stripping, hunting, fishing, berry picking and harvesting of medicinal plants.

- A premise of the Fish and Wildlife Sub-Agreement is to recognize, understand and build upon the existing aboriginal system of land use and resource management within the Stein watershed and to establish means to combine this age-old system with its modern technological equivalents, utilizing the best of both systems to protect, preserve and enhance fish and wildlife in the park. This sub-agreement dictates that the management plan will address and regulate hunting and/or fishing within the park, that the management plan will acknowledge the harvest of natural resources by the Lytton First Nation for ceremonial and sustenance purposes, and that the taking of natural resources will be limited to specific areas, and certain times according to restrictions set out in the management plan.

- A premise of the Cultural Heritage Sub-Agreement is that recognition, understanding, preservation, protection, communication and proper management of the cultural heritage resources within the Stein watershed will be the primary goal and focus of the management plan which will incorporate any and all means possible for enhancement and encouragement of traditional cultural heritage activities and related uses by Lytton First Nation members within the park.

- This sub-agreement calls for a Cultural Heritage Management Committee comprised of Lytton First Nation, Provincial and third party representatives to develop a cultural resource management plan and policies for the cultural heritage resources in the Stein watershed. The resultant Cultural Heritage Resource Management Plan and Policies will form a separate, special section of the overall management plan for the park. Under this plan visitation to specified cultural heritage zones may be restricted for the purpose of site protection and to provide exclusive use of such areas, from time to time, to members of the Lytton First Nation. This sub-agreement also states that cultural heritage research, investigations and activities within the park will also be addressed and regulated under the Cultural Heritage Resource Management Plan.

- A premise of the Tourism Sub-Agreement is to assist in building recognition, understanding, preservation, protection and proper management of the tourism potential of the Stein Valley watershed since the tourism resource is of significant importance to members of the Lytton First Nation. Co-management of the park by the Government of

British Columbia and the Lytton First Nation will include harmonious development of its tourism potential and the co-managers agree that the tourism potential of the valley will be built around the theme "Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park, A Living Museum of Cultural & Natural History".

Objective:

To be guided by the content, spirit and intent of the Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park Cooperative Management Agreement and associated Sub-Agreements in development of a harmonious long-term, cooperative arrangement and process for the planning, operation, and management of the park between the Government of British Columbia and the Lytton First Nation.

Park Zoning

Introduction

Zoning is used to assist in the planning and management of provincial parks. In general terms, zoning divides a park into logical units to apply uniform and consistent management objectives based on natural, cultural and recreational values, and existing and projected patterns of access and recreation use in relation to specific management goals. The zones reflect the intended land use, the degree of human use, and the level of management and development required. At one end of the spectrum, the Intensive Recreation Zone indicates a portion of a park that is appropriate for high levels of recreation and facility development. At the opposite end, the Wilderness Conservation Zone indicates an area of a park that receives the highest level of resource protection and minimal human presence.

Between these two extremes, there are three additional zones providing a range of conservation and recreation priorities. See Appendix C for an in-depth description of zoning.

The application of the provincial park zoning system within the Stein park must take into account special circumstances:

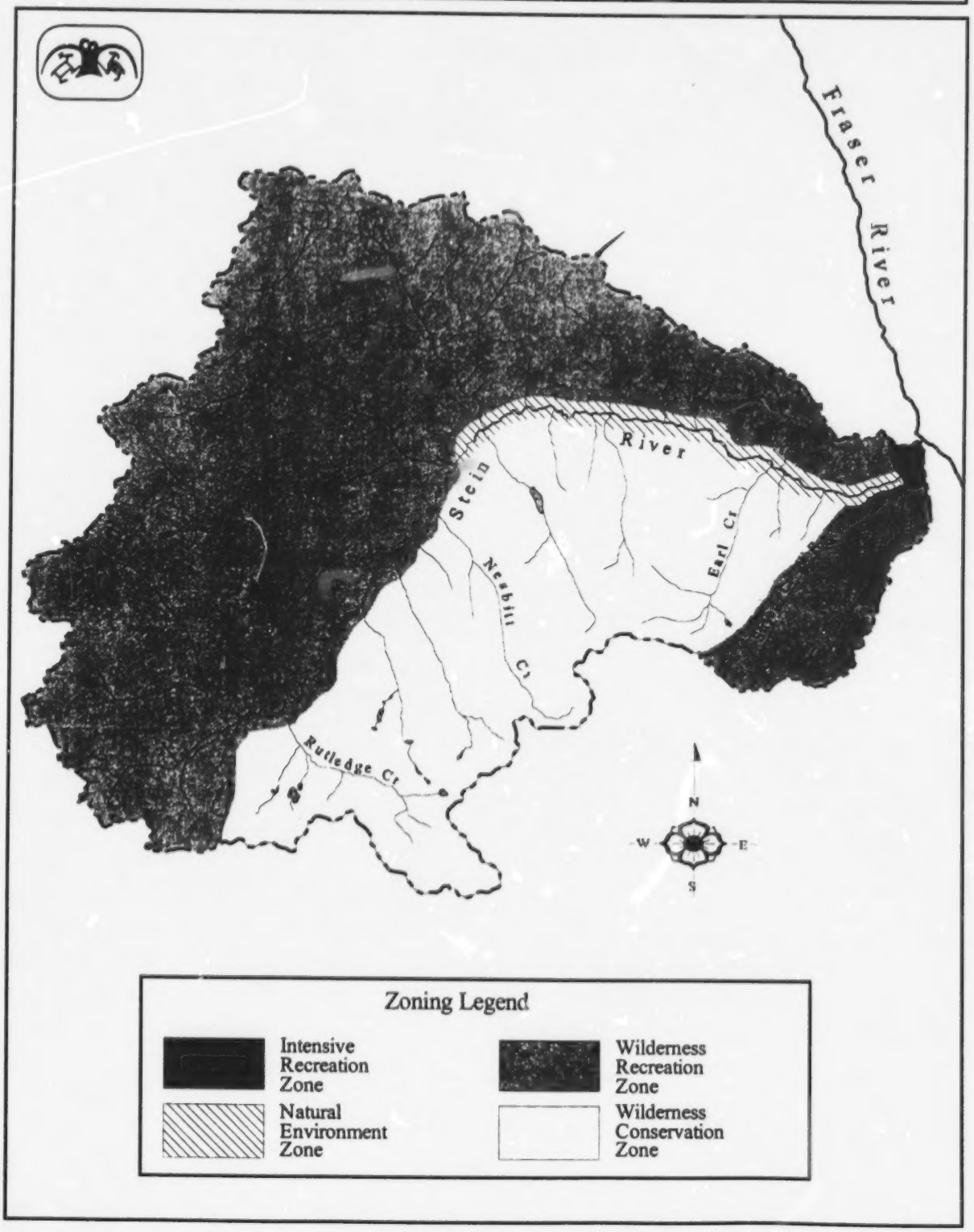
- trails, routes and patterns of use were long established before designation of the park
- the Cooperative Management Agreement between the Provincial Government and the Lytton First Nations largely define the management and zoning concept for the park
- while conservation and protection of wilderness values are the predominant considerations for determining appropriate zones, there are differences that must be reflected between certain areas of the park relating to management objectives and particularly to levels and types of facilities that will be provided for recreation

Based on Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park's features, its objectives for conservation and recreation, and its Vision Statement, the park lands fall within four zones: Wilderness Conservation, Wilderness Recreation, Natural Environment and Intensive Recreation (see Figure 1). Given the multiple roles of the park, the wilderness zoning has been maximized for conservation of wilderness values.

Wilderness Conservation Zone

This zone recognizes that a large part of the park lying south of Stein River is totally pristine with no evidence of human intrusion. The intent of this zone is to maintain this remote, undisturbed natural landscape. Along with exclusion of any development, no information will be provided on potential travel routes or recreation uses in this zone. Visitors to this zone will have to find the way on their own. The overriding management intent for this zone is to not interfere with the

Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park–Zoning Map



progression of natural processes. Under direction of the park Management Board's interpretation of the management agreement between the Provincial Government and the Lytton First Nation, hunting is permitted throughout the park. On this basis, and as an exception to the provincial park zoning policy, BC Parks and the Management Board decided to allow hunting in the Wilderness Conservation Zone, as an acceptable activity.

This zone, on the south side of the Stein River covers the Earl, Kent, Nesbitt and Rutledge Creek watersheds. At 30,000 ha it is approximately 28% of the park.

Wilderness Recreation Zone

The intent of this zone is to place a high priority on conserving the natural environment while providing for wilderness recreation. Facility development is minimal and limited to keeping the few recognized long established trails open and the maintenance of critical river crossings. No new trails will be developed. All trails and facilities will be developed to minimal standards to ensure some measure of public safety (particularly at river crossings) and to protect the environment. Evidence of human presence will be confined to trails and facility sites.

Within this zone, primary direction will be to allow natural ecological processes to continue without human interference.

This zone covers the entire north side of the Stein River and the Elton Creek watershed. Major tributaries include Cottonwood Creek, Scudamore Creek and the North Stein River. In addition, this zone includes the Stryen Creek drainage on the south side of the Stein River.

At 72,000 ha the Wilderness Recreation Zone covers nearly 67% of the park.

Natural Environment Zone

While ensuring that facilities do not dominate the natural environment, the objective of this zone is to provide for a higher level of recreation use than is provided for in the Wilderness Recreation Zone.

It is mostly within this zone that some of the restricted "Cultural Heritage Zones" referred to in the SVNHP Cultural Heritage Sub-Agreement will be located. This sub-agreement specifies that under the direction of the Management Board, visitation to specified cultural heritage zones may be restricted or limited for the purposes of site protection and facilitating exclusive use of such areas, from time to time, to members of the Lytton First Nation.

Within Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park the Natural Environment Zone will be used to define a corridor along the Stein River from its mouth to Scudamore Creek. Facilities will include a well defined trail and designated campsites.

At 5000 ha, this zone covers approximately 5% of the park.

Intensive Recreation Zone

The objective of this zone is to provide for development of trailhead facilities.

Within Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park the Intensive Recreation Zone will be used to define a small area near the trail head of the "Stein Heritage Trail" and may include a campground, a picnic area, parking and interpretive facilities.

At 50 ha, this zone covers 0.05% of the park.

Natural and Cultural Values and their Management

Introduction

Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park has long been recognized as an outstanding large wilderness watershed with internationally significant cultural heritage features. The high profile of the Stein, significance of park resources, proximity to growing urban populations and increasing demand for backcountry recreation combine to present complex management challenges.

The objectives of natural and cultural heritage protection in the park will stress managing human impacts to prevent degradation of, or interference with, normal ecological processes or cultural processes and values.

The stated roles, Vision Statement and zoning plans will provide the direction and context for management of resources.

Cultural Heritage Values

The park plays an important role in protecting cultural heritage values, plant communities and habitat for wildlife populations, and in complementing the biodiversity of the adjacent landscape. The scale, quality and nature of the Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park's cultural heritage values and features are of regional, national and international significance.

The lower Stein is exceptional in terms of density and diversity of archaeological sites. Concentrations of archaeological sites are thought to be greater than any area in the Interior Plateau. Seventy-eight archaeological sites have been identified within the lower Stein basin.

"Cultural heritage" in the park often means physical and spiritual activities that were, or are still, being practiced for the purposes of ritual, ceremonial, spiritual, economic or cultural well-being and the maintenance of Nlaka'pamux traditions.

The park contains cultural heritage features which only a few protected areas in British Columbia might equal. Naikoon, Ts'yl?os, and Nisga'a Memorial Lava Bed parks are three which are comparable. Cultural heritage features in the Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park include archaeological sites, features and related remains; ancient trails; pictograph and petroglyph sites; rock alignments and cairns, tree drawings and carvings; culturally modified trees; spirit caves; burial places; hunting blinds and drive fences; sacred and spiritual places and landscape features; spirit quest and power sites; legend, myth and oral history sites; birthing sites; puberty sites; battle sites; canoe sites; lithic resource procurement sites; traplines and trappers' cabins; camps

and village sites; lithic scatter sites; trail markers, and more. While there is basic knowledge of cultural heritage values, there is no comprehensive inventory of cultural heritage sites in the park.

Nlaka'pamux history and cultural continuity constitutes the primary cultural feature of the park. Contained within their natural surroundings, the park's cultural heritage resources are of major significance to a growing segment of the non-aboriginal population seeking to understand and appreciate indigenous culture and history. The Lytton First Nation has stated its willingness to share this rich legacy with those visiting their land, but make the special request that visitors to the valley act with the utmost care and respect.

Many Nlaka'pamux creation legends tell of supernatural beings known as "transformers" who traveled the land when the world was new and accomplished heroic and creative feats. Sesukii'n and Seku'lia were part of the group of transformers known as the "Shkwitkwatl" that came from Shuswap country and reached Styne Creek (the Stein River) one day at dusk and found a number of people living in an underground lodge just north of the creek where dogs began to howl when they approached. There, they transformed a man who made fun of them, his house, and the people living there, into stone. Upon leaving, Sesukli'n left the mark of his right foot on a stone. A little farther down the river, Seku'lia left the mark of his left foot. These impressions of human feet can still be seen in the woods near the Stein River.

As reminders of their passing, the Shkwitkwtl also changed the "spetakl people" (prehuman people with animal characteristics and gifted in magic) into real animals and into rocks and boulders with remarkable shapes. Many "legend rocks", as they are referred to by native elders, are visible today in the Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park.

Another reminder of the mythological age are certain rock paintings in the valley said to have been made by the "Shkwitkwatl" and still visible today. The majority of the rock paintings for which the valley is famous, however, were made by the ancestors of the Nlaka'pamux people at special places on the land which are recognized to possess a high level of "spirit power". Most of these are found on cliffs or boulders at the base of rock talus slopes beside the aboriginal trail that follows the river through the mountains. The exceptions are a number of painted caves located high above the river on steep mountain slopes.

This incalculable cultural wealth is reflected in the theme "Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park: A Living Museum of Cultural and Natural History". Planning and management of the park will be guided by this theme and will be designed to complement and highlight the historical and cultural presence of the Lytton Nlaka'pamux in the Stein watershed, as well as to preserve, maintain and encourage traditional aboriginal sustenance, cultural and ceremonial activities in the area.

Preservation, protection, presentation and proper management of the cultural heritage resources within the Stein watershed will be a primary goal and focus of the management plan.

Objectives:

To preserve and safeguard the park's cultural heritage resources in their natural setting and condition.

- Develop a comprehensive central inventory documenting and geographical referencing all archaeological, ethno-botany, legend and place names as they are identified.

- Provide information to the Heritage Conservation Branch so that they might safeguard distribution of information and track management of inventories.

- Monitor the condition and integrity of these resources on an ongoing basis.

- Assure confidentiality of inventories by developing a data access protocol between BC Parks and relevant aboriginal communities.

- Establish a Cultural Heritage Management Committee comprised of Lytton First Nation, provincial archaeology branch, BC Parks and third party representatives to develop a "Cultural Heritage Management Plan and Policies" for the cultural heritage resources in the Stein watershed.

- Elaborate site management strategies, including cultural heritage zones, through the development and implementation of the "Cultural Heritage Management Plan and Policies".

- Regulate cultural heritage research, investigations and activities within the park under the "Cultural Heritage Resource Management Plan and Policies".

To make Nlaka'pamux history and culture the primary cultural feature of the park by building on the theme: "Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park: A Living Museum of Cultural and Natural History" and to provide appropriate opportunities for the Nlaka'pamux to share their history and culture with visitors.

- Provide information and education on aboriginal cultural heritage legacy in the park, both to share and to ensure that visitors to the valley act with the utmost care and respect toward these resources.

- Develop an expanded awareness in the local community and park visitors, of the value and fragility of cultural values, through visitor and community information programs.

To encourage traditional activities and related uses by Lytton First Nation members within the park.

- Foster the restoration and maintenance of traditional activities through the sponsorship of workshops.

Land

At the time of park designation, land tenures and resource users in and adjacent to Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park had a possible bearing on park management activities or visitor use.

Objectives:

To manage non-conforming tenures to meet the cultural heritage and conservation roles of the park and the obligation to established uses.

To minimize environment and visual impacts of tenures, including rehabilitation of the lands affected by past industrial activity when necessary.

To eliminate all inholdings and tenures within the park as they become available, except water licenses and the trapping territory held by the Stein Company of Indians.

Water

Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park protects the whole of the Stein River watershed including alpine lakes, such as Elton, Stein, Tundra and Brimful, and numerous tributary creeks. Significantly, it is an intact wilderness watershed ecosystem - a land area drained by one free flowing river and consisting of integrated ecosystems that link together to form a single unit.

The Stein River is approximately 60 km long from the outlet of Stein Lake to its confluence with the Fraser River and supports a regionally significant fishery, both in terms of resident sport species and migratory commercial species. At least seven important fish species depend upon the river and its tributaries for all or part of their life cycles. These include Coho Salmon, Chinook Salmon, Pink Salmon, Steelhead Trout, Rainbow Trout, Dolly Varden char and Rocky Mountain Whitefish.

Existing tenures affect the flow of Stryen Creek. Tenures which affect the water flow of the Stein River itself are on adjacent Indian Reserve lands beyond the eastern boundary of the park.

The river, creeks, lakes and wetlands of this wilderness watershed are significant to the plants and animals of the park and to park visitors. They are also important to First Nations' cultural heritage values. Protection of the Stein River and other high quality water resources within the park is an important component of the conservation and recreation role of the park.

It is important that park visitors be aware that Giardia occurs naturally in the watershed and important that visitors be made aware of preventative measures which may be employed.

Objective:

To protect and maintain the natural quality, quantity and flow of water of the Stein River, its tributaries and associated alpine lakes.

- Disallow any application for the impoundment or diversion of any streams.
- Assure that recreation use and development has no measurable effect upon water quality through:
- Annual monitoring of water quality.
- Appropriate location and development of sanitary facilities as needed.
- Develop and distribute information cautioning visitors with regard to occurrences of giardia.

Vegetation

Few valleys in British Columbia traverse such a wide range of landform, climate and vegetation in such a short distance as does the Stein. The rain shadow effect of the Coast Mountains has resulted in the great diversity and contrast in vegetation and landscapes. Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park contains 6 of the province's 14 biogeoclimatic zones and encompasses some special vegetation features, such as stands of valley bottom, old growth Ponderosa pine. Ecosystem representation by natural vegetation is an integral part of the recreation experience in this large natural watershed and vegetation supports wildlife while contributing to the visual and recreational attractions of the park.

Prior to the advent of modern fire control practices the forests of Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park have been characterized by frequent natural fires and natural insect outbreaks. Fire control activities in recent years are changing the character of the forest.

The impact of introduced species on both naturally occurring plants and related wildlife habitat may be considerable. Weed species have made inroads into the lower canyon and in some areas have supplanted natural vegetation. Through inadvertent seed distribution, increased recreational use of the park by hikers may increase the rate of expansion of knapweed and other weed species.

In general, the Lytton First Nation and BC Parks' management philosophy is to consider allowing natural processes to occur. To allow natural disturbances to run their course requires good resource information and a thorough understanding of the consequences.

Objectives:

To maintain the natural progression of natural plant communities within the park.

- Work toward the completion of vegetation inventories which are suitable for the development of detailed vegetation management strategies.

- Develop a vegetation management plan which:

  - Allows natural disturbances to proceed in the majority of the park as part of the park's ecological integrity while allowing for the protection of specific botanical, wildlife, cultural and recreation values;

  - Integrates park fire and insect management objectives for the park with adjacent land management objectives in cooperation with the Ministry of Forests and license holders in adjacent areas.

- Encourage the use of the park by universities and other research oriented organizations for low impact, non-destructive scientific studies to quantify and qualify the management actions needed to achieve vegetation objectives. Special attention should be devoted to establishing means of combining traditional aboriginal systems of resource management with modern systems.

To develop a fire management strategy to protect park vegetation, park infrastructure and maintain plant and animal diversity while at the same time respecting natural processes as part of the park's ecological integrity.

- Specify public evacuation measures, priority control areas and the most suitable fire control methods. Until the fire management strategy is prepared, all wildfires will be subject to initial attack either by the Ministry of Forests or BC Parks.

- No open fires will be permitted. Park users will be restricted to use of backpack stoves.

- Post signs with information regarding the extreme fire hazards in the park.

To maintain the natural variety, abundance and distribution of plant species within the park.

- Implement a noxious weed monitoring and control program.

- Disallow any use of horses and other animals with the exception of pre-existing rights associated with grazing and guide-outfitting.

- Existing grazing rights will be maintained and administered through the Ministry of Forests in conjunction with BC Parks.

- Develop a cooperative noxious weed control program with adjacent land managers.

- Enlist the cooperation and assistance of park visitors through a weed information program.

- Implement appropriate site rehabilitation projects where man-made disturbances are not returning to an acceptably natural condition.

- Develop guidelines, in cooperation with the Lytton and Mt. Currie bands, for the appropriate collection and use of traditional plants to assure the protection and maintenance of traditional collection sites.

To assure the long term protection and viability of rare, threatened, endangered and sensitive (special) plant species and communities.

- Implement a vegetation inventory program to determine the presence, location and status of special vegetation.

- Develop site specific management plans for the protection and maintenance of special plant species and communities.

To integrate traditional plant collecting and harvesting into the management of the park's vegetation resources.

- Develop an inventory of documented ethno-botany traditions in the park.

- Locate and document traditional collecting sites as well as modern sites with potential as harvest/collection sites.

- Identify gaps in knowledge and initiate studies to supply needed information.

- Develop management strategies to integrate the traditional collection and harvest of vegetative resources into park management.

To safeguard the right of First Nations to harvest plants for sustenance, medicinal, and ceremonial purposes within the park.

To encourage public appreciation of forest and vegetation values.

Wildlife

The park is home to a large variety of animal life. Over 50 mammalian species are thought to utilize the watershed, including cougar, grizzly bear, and wolverine.

The presence of large carnivores is especially significant as an indicator since they depend on healthy populations of other mammals, birds and fish. For many of these species, the adjacent lands are also important habitat and, where possible, management strategies for the park should complement the role and strategies of neighbouring areas.

The Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park is a big natural system and has a high value for wildlife, particularly for large mammals that benefit from being in an extensive area without roads and human intrusion and also benefit from the high-elevation linkages which connect to other habitats surrounding the watershed.

No comprehensive surveys of wildlife populations or habitat sensitivity have been carried out in the watershed and specific species and distribution information is lacking.

Aboriginal and recreational uses of wildlife in the park have implications for management.

Objectives:

To maintain the natural diversity, distribution and number of animal species and populations within the park consistent with natural available habitats.

- Manage traditional, recreation and commercial uses so that conservation objectives are met.
- Disallow any proposals for wildlife habitat enhancement that are not consistent with vegetation management objectives.
- Develop a baseline inventory of wildlife and habitat within the Stein watershed, especially threatened, endangered and vulnerable species.
- Maintain inventories of rare, threatened, sensitive and hunted or trapped (special interest) species to determine population levels and trends.
- Adjust harvest levels of hunted and trapped species as required to maintain populations at sustainable levels.
- Increase knowledge and understanding of wildlife resources and habitat in the park, and encourage scientific research in the park, particularly that aimed at a better understanding of natural processes and those that have direct management benefits. Emphasis should be given to combining the traditional aboriginal systems of resource

management with modern systems, utilizing the best of both to conserve and sustain the natural diversity of wildlife species and populations over the landscape and to preserve and protect critical habitats.

To safeguard the right of the Lytton First Nation to take fish or wildlife for ceremonial or sustenance purposes.

To develop a clear understanding of traditional aboriginal systems of resource management practiced in the watershed and integrate these with modern systems in the park's wildlife management and conservation.

- Initiate a study to examine and document traditional hunting practices in the Stein Watershed.

- Develop wildlife management guidelines that integrate traditional aboriginal and modern wildlife management systems in the park.

Aquatic Resources

The Stein River supports a regionally significant fishery, both in terms of resident sport species and migratory commercial species.

The migratory species use the watershed for spawning and rearing before migrating to the Pacific Ocean. The salmon provide an important food source for predator wildlife species such as black bear, grizzly bear, raptors and other fish. In addition, they are an important source of nutrients for aquatic and riparian ecosystems.

Fish populations in the Stein are not easy to enumerate and existing figures are only rough estimates. Other species of fish, not recognized as commercially or recreationally important, are likely to be present in the system.

Although the Stein River can sustain a moderate amount of wilderness fishing, tourism development could bring more fishermen to the resource than the river can sustain. Cautious management and ongoing monitoring of the fisheries resource is essential.

Stein Lake has been artificially stocked and the lake will not be re-stocked as natural recruitment levels have been adequately established.

Objectives:

To conserve and maintain native fish populations.

- Compile an inventory of existing fish population and distribution information.

- Identify information needs and implement inventories to acquire the information.

- Develop appropriate management strategies to protect natural populations and natural habitats.

- Disallow any stocking programs for all water bodies included in the park.
- Maintain existing stocked populations through regulation.

- Assure the maintenance of natural habitats through monitoring human impacts and implementing protective management actions as required.

- Disallow any applications for activities that would impede the natural flow and volume of water in the park.

To safeguard the opportunity of the Lytton First Nation to take fish for ceremonial or sustenance purposes.

- Develop a clear understanding and document the traditional harvest needs and the fishery objectives of the Lytton First Nation.

- Maintain a monitoring program to determine the annual level of harvest.

- Work cooperatively with the Lytton First Nation and Fisheries, Oceans Canada and the Fisheries Branch to determine and set appropriate harvest levels.

- Encourage the study of the aquatic resources by academic and scientifically oriented organizations toward the development of management knowledge and techniques appropriate for the park.

- Special attention should be devoted to establishing means of combining traditional aboriginal systems of resource management with modern systems.

Aesthetic Values

Aesthetic values relate to scenery inside and around the park, water and air quality and opportunities for solitude and quietness. Resource use and development can potentially affect all of these.

The scenery in and around Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park is fundamental to the visitor's experience. The mountains, glaciers, alpine areas, forests, river, creeks, lakes and cultural heritage sites all contribute to the park's scenery. Park visitors can view areas outside the

park from some locations and development adjacent to the park can affect the viewscape and the experience for the park visitor.

Impacts on scenic values, water and air quality and of noise should be mitigated as much as possible. Approval procedures, such as the Environmental Assessment Process, will take into account the proximity of the park and include requirements for reclamation.

Objectives:

To retain aesthetic features within the park so that the visual and wilderness qualities of the park are protected.

To coordinate and cooperate with other agencies to manage visual qualities around the park.

Outdoor Recreation Features

Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park contains a number of natural features, encompassing two climatic zones, three small glacier systems, and four major lakes including the spectacular Elton Lake. Also confined within the protective ridge encompassing the Stein watershed are a variety of arid benchlands, cedar glades and pine forests, river-edge marshes and rushing rapids.

These features offer a full spectrum of backcountry opportunities, although most of the park is rugged and best suited to experienced mountaineers and hikers in pursuit of a challenging wilderness experience. Access is difficult and often increases the expectations for a high-quality experience. The easily accessible areas are limited and could receive more use and impact as the profile of this park increases. In addition, some areas, such as alpine areas, are more sensitive to visitation than others and have less ability to support visitors.

From a landscape perspective, Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park ensures a quality experience which may not be available outside the park. Given its wilderness qualities and values, management of values and resources should take a precautionary approach to ensure these qualities are maintained.

The park is also a living cultural heritage museum for the Nlaka'pamux, and to a lesser extent, the Stl'atl'imx, containing the physical and spiritual remains of activities that were, or are still, being practiced for the purposes of ritual, ceremonial, spiritual, economic or cultural well-being and the maintenance of aboriginal traditions.

These combined features provide visitors with a wide range of outdoor recreation opportunities. All these features are affected by the conservation goals of the park. The amount of recreation at any one site will vary with the specific site's ability to support a given recreational activity. Consequently, management prescriptions will vary according to environmental sensitivity.

Objectives:

To ensure that recreational promotion, development and use are compatible with conservation objectives, First Nations' values and outdoor recreation features.

To manage recreational use of resources and special features for minimal impact so that activities are sustainable and resources are protected.

Scientific Research and Education

Information and understanding of the park needs to be improved. Knowledge of the details of natural and cultural values is critical to meaningful management. The park's proximity to University College of the Cariboo, Simon Fraser University and the University of British Columbia provides an excellent research, outdoor classroom and educational opportunity.

Objective:

To assure that the park's special cultural and natural values are understood and appreciated by both the aboriginal and non-aboriginal communities.

- Encourage the study of all aspects of the park's cultural heritage and natural resources and processes by academic and scientifically-oriented organizations toward the development of management knowledge and techniques appropriate for the park. Special attention should be devoted to rare and threatened species protection and establishing means of combining traditional aboriginal systems of resource management practiced in the watershed with modern systems, utilizing the best of both to conserve and sustain the natural diversity of wildlife species and populations over the landscape and to preserve and protect critical habitats.

- Assure that the information gathered in these studies is communicated to appropriate audiences.

- Develop an extension program in cooperation with First Nations, the Government of BC, schools and other organizations to develop awareness, support and understanding of the park's special values targeted specifically to non-park visitors.

Recreation Opportunities and Management

Introduction

This section of the management plan describes the strategies for managing outdoor recreation and access in Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park. The main theme of this section is to define how the park contributes to people's enjoyment of the outdoors, both through appreciation of its values and through recreation. The plan looks at how both tourists and local people can experience what the park has to offer and how the Stein Management Board plays an important role in balancing use of park with protection of its features and values for future generations.

The management objectives and strategies described in this section are related to the need to sustain the park's wilderness qualities, ecological integrity and cultural heritage features at the same time that its social carrying capacity is realized.

The concept and theme of the park is best presented by its full name, "Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park, A Living Museum of Cultural and Natural History" and management of the park will be designed to complement and highlight the cultural heritage of the Lytton Nlaka'pamux in the watershed. Signage and infrastructure will be designed to incorporate and build upon the above name and Nlaka'pamux legends, myths, histories and teachings associated with the watershed, such as the "Stein Heritage Trail" as a trade route between coastal and interior aboriginal nations, chiefs' burials, vision questing, puberty rites, pictograph sites, spirit caves, power places, power questing, bark stripping, root digging, berry gathering, medicine gathering, trapping, hunting, fishing, and other traditional uses.

The people of the Lytton and Mt. Currie First Nations have traditionally used and are currently using the park for food and medicine gathering, hunting, fishing and cultural, spiritual and ceremonial activities. Recreation uses by visitors can potentially affect their ability to pursue these traditions. Park management must balance conservation and traditional aboriginal activities with recreation uses.

The sense of solitude and mountain scenery is an integral part of the attraction to the backcountry. The natural, undisturbed wilderness setting of the park's backcountry is important to maintain, and a high priority will be placed on ensuring that the recreation activities have minimal effects on the landscape. As well, it will be important to minimize interactions between visitors and wildlife, including black bears and grizzly bears.

One of the greatest management challenges for Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park will be to maintain the highly valued wilderness qualities in the face of increasing recreational use. To ensure wilderness quality and avoid conflicts between user interests, the management plan determines appropriate recreation uses and types of activities. Use and management of the area for outdoor recreation and tourism will need to be balanced with the conservation and cultural heritage role of the park and the need to preserve the wilderness recreation experience.

This plan emphasizes the importance of maintaining remote, roadless, non-mechanized wilderness qualities of the park and protecting its cultural heritage. As such, snowmobiles, mountain bikes and other mechanical recreation equipment will not be permitted. As a holiday destination and a local recreation spot, the park offers a diversity of outdoor recreation activities such as cultural interpretation, camping, hiking, fishing and nature appreciation. Combined with superb scenery, the rich tapestry of natural values and rich cultural heritage contribute to an outstanding destination provincial park. However given the physical nature of the park, the campsites are limited in their ability to expand and the fishery resource is sensitive to over-harvesting. Careful and sensitive management is required.

The natural and cultural features of Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park provide an attractive setting for a variety of opportunities for cultural heritage interpretation, nature interpretation and for outdoor recreation. These activities must be managed so that they are compatible with the zoning, are not detrimental to natural and cultural heritage values, and are consistent with visitors' expectations and respect the Vision Statement for the park.

It is important to balance public and commercial recreation use both to ensure fairness of access to the park and to protect the natural and cultural heritage values that contribute to the recreation experience.

The Lytton First Nation and BC Parks will manage for a continuity of experience to ensure that people are made aware of the park's sensitive environments and its educational potential. When the visitors receive information on the park, a certain expectation is set. That expectation will be met from the time the visitors enter the park until the time they leave again. This includes pre-trip information, on-site information, access, parking, visitor facilities, appropriate trails for the activity, and appropriate management of vegetation and wildlife along trails.

In maintaining a high quality wilderness recreation experience, values must be assessed and use monitored and managed to ensure that recreation use does not affect the environmental and social integrity of the area and the experience. The Lytton First Nation and BC Parks will implement a long-term monitoring program to assess the impact of recreation activity on the park and its resources. Through this system, management actions can be taken in a proactive manner. To this end, priority will be given to assessing the condition of the resource, developing a monitoring program, and establishing a database.

The general concept for visitor services management is to design and locate park facilities in a manner sensitive to the zones, ecosystems and the cultural heritage values of the area.

Consistent with provisions in the Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park Tourism Sub-Agreement services and facilities featuring natural and cultural interpretation by qualified guides will be important.

Development of the proposed Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Cultural Heritage Centre by the Lytton First Nation on adjacent reserve lands is an essential component in the elaboration of the overall tourism potential of the park and will offer visitors an excellent opportunity to learn about past

and present Nlaka'pamux culture. The educational and recreational milieu of a cultural center will stimulate interest in the natural and cultural history of the valley and will accommodate a broad segment of the public.

Recreation Outdoor Opportunities

Access Strategy

Management of access to and within Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park will be an important key to retaining its wilderness qualities and protecting its cultural heritage resources while providing recreation opportunities.

At the time of designation six roads gave access to the park:

1) the West Side Road near Lytton and a private road across Lytton Indian Reserve property terminating in a dirt parking lot at the eastern end of the "Stein Heritage Trail" (primary and most critical access).

2) Texas Creek road, providing access to the Siwhe Creek - Cattle Valley and Brimful Lake alpine areas.

3) Blowdown road providing access to the Cottonwood drainage from Blowdown Pass. From the pass a rough road descended to the Silver Queen mine site.

4) Van Horlick road giving access to the North Stein River via Van Horlick Pass.

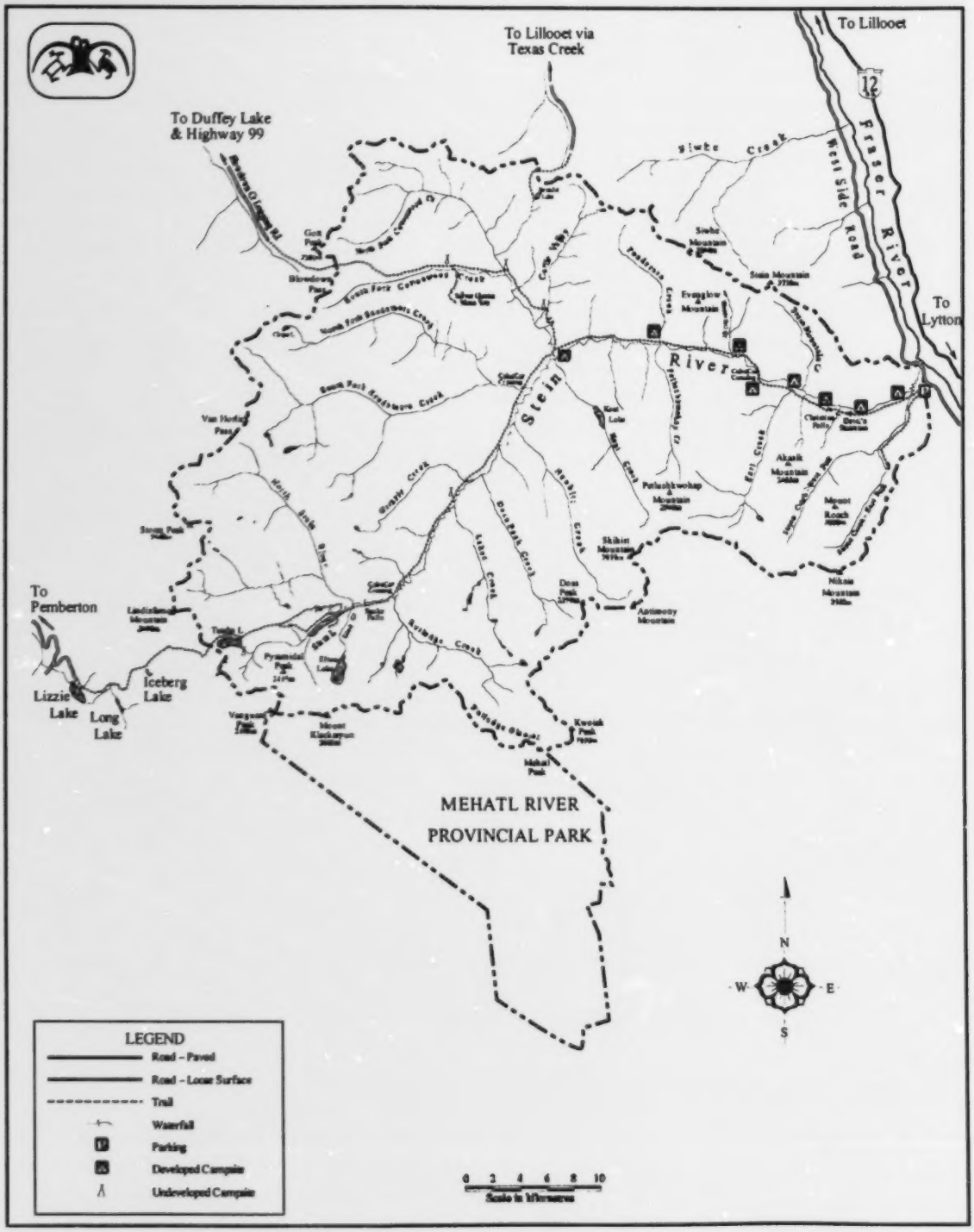
5) Lizzie Lake road, providing access to the Lizzie Lake area from which it is a one to two day hike to the Stein's westernmost alpine areas and western end of the "Stein Heritage Trail". This road terminates in a parking lot and rough campsites at Lizzie Lake.

6) Kwoiek Creek road, from which one can approach the park at the head of Nesbitt Creek.

Logging roads used to access various points on the periphery of the watershed are managed by agencies other than BC Parks, and the access road and parking lot at the mouth of the Stein is on Lytton First Nation reserve land. There is a need to work with government agencies, such as the Ministry of Transportation and Highways and Ministry of Forests, and the Lytton First Nation to maintain roads approaching the park in a manner which is consistent with the wilderness character of the park.

In order to preserve the remote wilderness character of the park, recreational access by helicopter and floatplane is not appropriate. Rescue and park management flights and landings will be required.

Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park–Access Map



BC Parks does not have jurisdiction over the airspace and can only regulate landings. Frequent over flights are not appropriate given the wilderness character of this park.

The trails in the Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park evolved for pedestrian travel and, for the most part, are too steep, narrow, wet or rocky for bicycles. In addition, alpine areas and steep trail sections are vulnerable to the impact of bike tires, which can remove vegetation and accelerate erosion. To eliminate this impact on the environment and possible conflict with other users, mountain bikes will not be allowed in the park.

Objectives:

To provide a reasonable level of road access for visitors to experience the park.

To coordinate and seek cooperation with other agencies and the First Nations to implement the following access requirements:

- Main trail head - good year around two wheel drive road.
- Texas Creek - rough two wheel drive to existing trail head outside of park.
- Blowdown Creek - rough two wheel drive to a suitable location outside the park and below the lake.
- Van Horlick - rough two wheel drive to a suitable location outside the park.
- Lizzie Lake - existing road.
- Kwoeik - close road well below the park.
- Discourage other road accesses near the park boundary.

To manage aircraft use in and over the park:

- Prohibit aircraft landings for recreational purposes.
- Allow landings for management and rescue purposes.
- Discourage scenic flight viewing and low level flying

Backcountry Hiking and Backpacking

The expansive, scenic and varied Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park is well suited for backcountry hiking and backpacking trips during the summer and early fall seasons. The "Stein Heritage Trail" features a variety of opportunities for hiking, multiple day backpacking trips, and wilderness recreation. This trail is unique in the region since both summer and winter hiking are

generally feasible in the scenic and dry lower valley with its extended hiking season and rich legacy of cultural interpretation opportunities. The park also provides rigorous wilderness excursions including a variety of rugged ridge walks suitable for intermediate to experienced hikers. The area is close enough to Vancouver to make long weekend trips feasible and expansive enough to accommodate longer treks of up to a week or more.

Interactions between park visitors and black or grizzly bears can result in harm to both visitors and bears. Backpackers may be unaware of techniques to reduce people-grizzly encounters and will need to be advised of appropriate bear avoidance behaviour and of prime bear habitat locations to reduce the chances of an encounter.

People hiking in the park should use the established routes and, with the possible exception of the lower canyon area, be experienced backpackers. Backcountry visitors should be prepared to hike in remote and physically challenging areas, and therefore need to be independent, self-sufficient and self-reliant.

The Lytton and Mt. Currie First Nations are concerned about the impacts of visitors on the natural environment and upon traditional aboriginal pursuits within the watershed.

Objectives:

To offer a primitive, backcountry system of trails, routes and facilities for experienced wilderness hikers and backpackers that conveys opportunities to experience the wilderness nature of the park and the cultural heritage therein. This may involve improving and consolidating the existing network of trails and campsites but does not encourage development of new trails.

The degree of development will reflect park zoning:

- Natural Environment (main trail head to Cottonwood Creek). Relatively easy access with developed backcountry sites and services.
- Wilderness Recreation.
  - Cottonwood Creek to Stein Lake - well established, remote corridor trail with some developed sites.
  - Cottonwood Creek to Blowdown Pass - established connecting trail with some designated sites.
  - Texas Creek - established trail from outside park to Brimful Lake, designated sites at Brimful Lake.
  - Van Horlick - alpine and subalpine routes.

- Stein Lake to Tundra Lake and Elton Lake - marked routes.
- Stryen Creek - established trail to alpine.
- Remainder of Wilderness Recreation Zone - no trails, wilderness route finding with some routes identified on park maps.

- Wilderness Conservation Zone - no trails and no routes identified on park maps and no information for recreation use.

To enhance the backcountry visitors awareness of the First Nations cultural heritage, natural features, wildlife etiquette and safety, and techniques for respecting bear habitat and avoiding encounters.

- Design and locate trails and facilities to minimize bear human interaction.
- Locate and relocate trails and facilities to minimize impacts on cultural resources.

To ensure limited impact to rare and endangered plant communities, fish and wildlife populations and cultural heritage values.

- Assess and monitor impact of backcountry visitors on natural and cultural heritage values. Monitoring programs to assess visitor impacts will provide the basis for prudent management.
- Conduct surveys to provide baseline information for management decisions and actions. Information should be available to hikers explaining backcountry features and wildlife etiquette and safety.

Mountaineering

Many of the ridges and peaks on the perimeter of the Stein watershed offer climbing opportunities.

Objective:

To allow unassisted opportunities for a variety of mountaineering experiences.

- No special facilities will be provided for mountaineers

Angling

The park offers opportunities for river and lake fishing. First Nations people have the right to harvest fish in the park for sustenance or ceremonial use. Lytton First Nation members traditionally camp and fish along the river.

Objectives:

To provide angling opportunities for park visitors without detriment to indigenous fish populations or aboriginal fishing opportunities.

- Maintain recreational angling opportunities as a low profile activity.
- Monitor numbers of users coming to fish in the park.

Hunting

Apart from the history of aboriginal hunting and trapping in the park, most interest comes from wilderness hunters.

Within the park, it is the Lytton First Nation's and BC Parks philosophy to manage hunting conservatively to ensure healthy wildlife populations, while offering sustainable hunting opportunities.

The members of the Lytton and Mt. Currie First Nations have hunted, and continue to hunt, in the park area to provide food for their families. They have traditional hunting rights for sustenance purposes.

Objectives:

To manage wildlife according to the Vision Statement using sound and accepted wildlife management principles, in order to maintain healthy wildlife populations and provide sustainable hunting opportunities.

To provide hunting opportunities for park visitors without detriment to indigenous wildlife populations or aboriginal hunting opportunities.

- There will be no hunting for endangered species.
- Maintain recreational hunting opportunities as a low profile activity.
- Monitor numbers of users coming to hunt in the park.

Boating

With the exception of the Stein River, lakes and streams in the park are not suitable for boating. The Stein River is not used appreciably for canoeing, kayaking, or rafting due to its difficult access and variable gradient. Except for possible use of the eight-mile section above the lower cable crossing, significant use of the Stein appears quite limited for all river navigation activities. Some rafting and kayaking is possible in the lower Stein, particularly below the Devil's Staircase.

The Lytton First Nation have traditionally used canoes to access the middle Stein River for hunting, gathering, fishing and trapping and spiritual and ceremonial uses, and have identified river float trips on the eight mile section of the Stein River above Canoe Landing as a possible component of their tourism strategy for the park.

Objective:

To allow boating activities consistent with the access strategy for the park.

Winter Recreation

Other than the extended hiking season often possible in the lower Stein valley, winter activities represent a small part of recreational use of the park. Due to the rugged terrain, high avalanche hazards, and unreliable snow conditions, the park presents very limited opportunities for cross-country skiing, backcountry skiing, and snow shoeing.

Objective:

To allow safe, low impact winter recreation activities.

- Provide appropriate information for winter use.

Horse Use

Historically, horses have been only an occasional means of travel in the park. The rough terrain is generally unsuitable for horses. Horses can do damage to trails and wet areas and can come into conflict with other users such as hikers. Horses can also introduce foreign vegetation species through feed or feces. Infrastructure requirements and trail standards are quite different from what now exists in the park.

Park Act Regulations state that horse riding is allowed only if declared open. Given the potential impacts of horses to Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park, the park is closed to horses except for the one guide outfitter and grazing management activities that pre-existed the establishment of the park.

Objective:

To phase out all horse use in the park.

- Eliminate horse use activities as opportunities arise.

Commercial Activities

Recreational guiding can enhance some visitors' enjoyment of Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park. Guiding is a commercial activity and requires a park use permit from BC Parks. Generally, guiding opportunities are judged on services and opportunities provided as well as their possible impacts on cultural heritage values, natural values, facilities and trails, the wilderness character and other visitors. Protection of cultural heritage and natural resources is a high priority and, as such, limitations or restrictions on recreation may be implemented.

In providing recreational opportunities in a park, commercial recreation must be at levels that will not interfere with other user groups. Commercial activities must be compatible with park objectives and other user's interests.

Commercial uses can have an impact on the ability of the Lytton and Mt. Currie First Nations to continue to pursue traditional activities in the park area. Management of recreation guiding activities must also take these traditional activities into account.

Guided wilderness tourism is an important component of the management plan. The Lytton First Nation has identified provision of natural and cultural interpretation by qualified guides as a probable component of their tourism strategy for the park.

Objective:

To allow recreational guiding which will support park objectives and public use and appreciation of the park, and could include the following:

- Hiking, natural and cultural interpretation and appreciation, fishing, hunting, boating, mountaineering, winter activities.

To ensure that commercial tourism guide-operators express and conform to the theme of the park and are respectful and knowledgeable of the cultural heritage and the natural values protected within Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park.

- Ensure commercial activities must comply with park objectives and zoning.

- Ensure all commercial operations are managed under park use permits. The number of permits issued for any given area or trail may be restricted due to environmental considerations or a requirement for opportunities for public use.

Management Services

As part of the Cooperative Management Agreement signed between the Government of British Columbia and the Lytton First Nation, the parties have established a Management Board to oversee and manage all initiatives and undertakings relating to the planning, operation and management of the park. The Management Board is comprised of three representatives of British Columbia and three representatives of the Lytton First Nation.

In the spirit of mutually beneficial cooperation both parties have agreed that they will refer any activity that affects the planning, operation and management of the park to this Management Board.

Under the direction of the Management Board, Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park is administered from the Thompson River District Office of BC Parks in Kamloops. Staff ensure that the various management responsibilities are carried out according to the Park Act and Park Act Regulations, Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park Cooperative Management Agreement and associated Sub-Agreements addressing Fish & Wildlife, Cultural Heritage and Tourism, this management plan and established policies and procedures of the Ministry. This includes, but is not limited to:

- collecting data on resources; managing resources and cultural values;
- regulating public use to ensure safe and proper use of the park and its facilities;
- maintaining trails, cabins and other facilities; managing permits covering all commercial uses within the park;
- assessing and monitoring impacts of recreational users, and minimizing the impact of visitors, facilities and activities.

Objectives:

To carry out management responsibilities according to the Park Act, Park Act Regulations and the objectives of this management plan.

To adhere to the content, spirit and intent of the Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park Cooperative Management Agreement and associated Sub-Agreements addressing Fish & Wildlife, Cultural Heritage and Tourism in the planning, management and operation of the park.

To continue to develop a positive and effective working relationship with the Lytton First Nation in the co-management of the park.

Communications

Introduction

Providing current information on all aspects of Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park is an important function of visitor management. Information can play a number of key roles. First, it can serve to set visitor expectations and assist in the planning of holidays and recreation activities. Secondly, information can promote outdoor etiquette and careful use of the park's resources. And thirdly, information can create an awareness and appreciation of cultural features, the natural setting and conservation.

Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park is primarily a backcountry wilderness park, providing opportunities for cultural heritage interpretation, protection of wildlife and their habitats and backcountry recreation. It offers the challenges of a backcountry park that is rugged and remote.

Park information is discussed in more detail in four sections: 1) promotion and marketing; 2) awareness and pre-trip planning; 3) orientation information; and 4) natural and cultural resource information.

Marketing and Promotion

Promotion of a park can affect the level of use and the type of visitors it attracts. Consequently, promotion strategies must be consistent with the objectives of the park.

The conservation significance and wilderness values of the park must be incorporated in strategies for marketing the park. There are concerns that promoting backcountry recreation can lead to significant increases in visitors, which in turn can affect the park resources and wilderness qualities. Consequently, care must be taken in the type of promotion and marketing program undertaken. An aggressive advertising campaign is not appropriate for this park.

Along with BC Parks, tourist associations, lodges, operators and others promote the park. Coordination is needed to ensure that promotional information is consistent, accurate and keeping with park objectives, and that marketing is consistent with the role and theme of the park and objectives of the management plan.

Public awareness of Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park is high. The awe-inspiring scenery, the rich cultural legacy in the park, and the concerns of the Lytton and Mt. Currie First Nations for the area have all shared in raising the profile of the park.

The concerns of First Nations must be considered in developing strategies for marketing the park. Given that the park is their home, marketing and promotion must reflect sensitivity and respect for the Lytton First Nation, as well as the content and intent of the SVNHP Cooperative Management Agreement and associated Sub-Agreements.

Draft versions of all park promotional materials, including print, audio, video or film, will be presented to Lytton First Nation Chief and Council or its designate for comment and approval prior to final production and release.

Objectives:

To ensure that promotion and marketing of the park utilizes and builds upon the theme "Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park, A Living Museum of Cultural and Natural History" and will be designed to complement and highlight the historical and cultural presence of the Lytton Nlaka'pamux in the Stein watershed.

- Design park promotional materials, advertising, signage and infrastructure to underscore, incorporate and build upon the above name and Nlaka'pamux legends, myths, histories and teachings associated with the watershed.

- Ensure park promotional materials (including print, audio, video or film, produced by BC Parks) will reflect the tourism strategy and marketing program of the Lytton First Nation.

- Portray the park's role in the cultural heritage of the Lytton First Nation.

To ensure the promotion and marketing of the park is consistent and appropriate for a wilderness park.

- Portray the park's role in conserving vital habitat and biodiversity in a large natural ecosystem in close proximity to rapidly growing urban populations.

Information and Awareness

Awareness and pre-trip planning information can help to set expectations and influence attitudes and behaviours. Specific information on pre-trip planning is available from BC Parks' offices in Kamloops and Victoria, the Lytton First Nation administration office in Lytton, the BC Tourism Infocentre in Lytton and the Mt. Currie First Nation administration office in Mt. Currie. Printed brochures which describe park resources, facilities and trails are also available at other BC Tourism Infocentres. People may wish additional information if they are planning an extended backcountry trip into the park. This information is available from the BC Parks' Thompson River District Office in Kamloops.

Objective:

To provide consistent, current and accurate information about Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park to assist visitors in planning their trip.

- Provide accurate and appropriate information for low use and low impact backcountry opportunities and challenges.

- Supply information to orient visitors in Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park.

- Supply information about other local recreation and tourism opportunities and provincial parks.

Orientation Information at Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park

Orientation information is provided in park brochures and on signs in the park to help people become oriented in the park and to become aware of what opportunities are available. In-park handouts are also practical ways to inform park visitors both on specific areas and on educational information. For example, handouts can inform backcountry visitors about wilderness recreation etiquette and safety, low impact camping techniques and bear avoidance techniques. Signs, including information boards, trail signs and roadside signs can both provide information and create an identity for the park. Information signs can provide important on-site safety information.

Objectives:

To ensure the signage and informational brochures are consistent with pertinent directives of the SVNHP Cooperative Management Agreement and the Tourism Sub-Agreement.

- Locate appropriate signs at major trail heads and key points within the park.

- Park handouts and brochures and other printed matter will serve as a means of conveying information

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To supply information to help orient park visitors. To provide information for backcountry visitors about wilderness recreation etiquette and safety.

Cultural Interpretation

Development of the proposed Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Cultural Heritage Centre by the Lytton First Nation adjacent to the park is an essential component in the development of the overall tourism potential of the park and will offer visitors an excellent opportunity to learn about past and present Nlaka'pamux culture. The educational and recreational milieu of a cultural center will stimulate interest in the natural and cultural history of the valley and will accommodate a

broad segment of the public, including a majority who are not inclined or fit to hike the "Stein Heritage Trail".
This center will include a cultural center and museum building, cultural interpretation trails to nearby sites, ancillary food services, a craft production center, the Rediscovery base hut and a large theatre designed to accommodate cultural activities and ceremonies. It is anticipated that the Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Cultural Heritage Centre will likely become a key tourist attraction and, combined with park features will constitute a world class natural and cultural learning experience.

Natural and Cultural Heritage Education

The outstanding natural and cultural heritage resources of Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park provides significant opportunities for education and appreciation. Protection and presentation of the cultural heritage resources within the Stein watershed is a primary focus of this management plan.

Wildlife viewing and nature appreciation are popular recreational opportunities which can strengthen the bond visitors have with the park. When viewing wildlife, animals should not be disturbed through viewing, particularly in times of physiological stress during winter or spring. In addition, nature study activities should not damage fragile environments or interfere with the ability of First Nations to pursue their traditional activities and lifestyle.

Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park represents a significant wilderness area protecting the region's ecological diversity and cultural heritage. It can provide an important role in sharing information about conservation, ecology, natural processes and features, and culture and history of the Lytton First Nation. This type of information helps to cultivate an understanding of how Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park is linked to the current lifestyle of the residents and how it shapes and influences the First Nations' cultures today. It also has a role in conserving special features and biodiversity on a regional, provincial and national level.

In addition to conservation and recreation, Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park has unique themes that could be used in an education program. The major themes are:

- Natural Heritage: regional landscapes, geology and active glaciation, ecological diversity and large natural systems.

- Cultural Heritage: traditional aboriginal systems of resource management and the physical and spiritual remains of activities that were, or are still, being practiced for the purposes of ritual, ceremonial, spiritual, economic or cultural well being and the maintenance of Nlaka'pamux traditions.

- Wilderness Recreation: opportunities available in the park, outdoor safety, wilderness and conservation ethics, bear safety, low impact use.

Objectives:

To share information about natural and cultural heritage features and values in the area in order to foster and maintain appreciation and understanding of the Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park's significance and the importance of protecting these features and values.

- Possible future developments such as a cultural heritage center could also serve this objective.
- Allow use of the park as a resource for educational institutions.
- Encourage visitor appreciation, understanding and stewardship of the park's natural and cultural heritage.

To ensure the signage and informational brochures are consistent with pertinent directives of the SVNHP Cooperative Management Agreement and the Tourism Sub-Agreement.

- Locate appropriate signs at major trail heads and key points within the park.
- Park handouts and brochures and other printed matter will serve as a means of conveying information.
- Supply information to help orient park visitors.
- Provide information for backcountry visitors about wilderness recreation etiquette and safety.

To provide appropriate information and interpretation.

To consider nature and cultural appreciation opportunities when locating and designing trails and facilities.

To encourage the use of the park for the interpretation of First Nations traditions and use.

- Develop an interpretative program in cooperation with the Lytton and Mt. Currie First Nations, which integrates those bands into the development and presentation of interpretative messages.
- Provide appropriate self-interpretation facilities at strategic locations within and adjacent to the park in cooperation with the Lytton First Nation.

To promote education, conservation and cross-cultural awareness through increasing appreciation of the natural and cultural heritage values of the park.

- Develop better understanding of the natural processes of big, natural ecosystems and better understanding of the relationship of these natural processes to traditional aboriginal and modern systems of resource management.

- Develop better understanding of natural processes in order to conduct site restoration and rehabilitation within the park.

- Present and interpret, for public education, the natural resources of the watershed and the cultural significance they have to the Lytton First Nation.

Plan Implementation

The Management Plan forms the basis from which BC Parks and the Stein Management Board can set priorities to meet management objectives. Implementation of some of the strategies will be of an operational nature, but others such as fire management, protection of cultural resources, etc., will require more detailed planning. Follow through on these strategies is dependent on the availability of financial and staffing capacity for both First Nations and BC Parks. In addition, implementation of actions is affected by the management needs of other parks in the Thompson River District and the entire protected area system.

Appendix A: Goals for Protected Areas

BC Parks has adopted the goals of the Protected Areas Strategy[1]:

Goal 1: Representativeness

To protect viable, representative examples of the natural diversity of the province, representative of the major terrestrial, marine and freshwater ecosystems, the characteristic habitats, hydrology and landforms, and the characteristic backcountry recreational and cultural heritage values of each ***ecosection.***

Wherever possible, protected areas should combine natural, cultural heritage and recreational values. Where it is not possible to combine these in a common area, they may be represented separately. Where it is not possible to represent all values, the natural values will be given priority.

Goal 2: Special Features

To protect the special natural, cultural heritage and recreational features of the province, including rare and endangered species and critical habitats, outstanding or unique botanical, zoological, geological and paleontological features, outstanding or fragile cultural heritage features, and outstanding outdoor recreational features such as trails.

Many protected areas will be set aside primarily to protect rare or vulnerable features. Others will combine protection with giving people the opportunity to appreciate and enjoy the intrinsic value of the areas. Others will be protected to attract people to experience and appreciate their natural and cultural heritage.

[1]Province of British Columbia. 1993. A Protected Areas Strategy for British Columbia, Victoria, BC

Appendix B: BC Parks Recreation Goals

BC Parks has four recreation goals[2]:

- *Tourism Travel Routes:* to provide parks and services which enhance tourism travel routes. We would like to help BC build a world-wide reputation for offering tourism opportunities along major highways, lakes and the Coast;

- *Outdoor Recreation Holiday Destinations:* to provide park attractions which serve as or improve key destinations for outdoor recreation holidays. We want to help the province build a reputation for world-renowned natural holiday destinations;

- *Backcountry:* to provide outstanding backcountry recreation opportunities throughout the province. We want to build the province's reputation for backcountry recreation by protecting and managing our most outstanding wilderness areas;

- *Local Recreation:* to ensure access to local outdoor recreation opportunities for all residents of the province.

[2]Ministry of Parks. 1990. Preserving our Living Legacy: Parks Plan 90. Victoria, BC

Appendix C: BC Parks Management Planning Zone Descriptions (1997/98)

	Intensive Recreation	Natural Environment
OBJECTIVE	To provide for a variety of readily accessible, facility-oriented outdoor recreation opportunities.	To protect scenic values and to provide for backcountry recreation opportunities in a largely undisturbed natural environment.
USE LEVEL	Relatively high density and long duration types of use.	Relatively low use but higher levels in association with nodes of activity or access.
MEANS OF ACCESS	All-weather public roads or other types of access where use levels are high (see "Impacts" below).	Mechanized (power-boats, snowmobiles, all terrain vehicles), non-mechanized (foot, horse, canoe, bicycle). Aircraft and motorboat access to drop-off and pickup points will be permitted.
LOCATION	Contiguous with all-weather roads and covering immediate areas, modified landscapes or other high-use areas.	Removed from all-weather roads but easily accessible on a day-use basis. Accessible by mechanized means such as boat or plane.
SIZE OF ZONE	Small; usually less than 2,000 ha.	Can range from small to large.
BOUNDARY DEFINITION	Includes areas of high facility development in concentrated areas.	Boundaries should consider limits of activity/facility areas relative to ecosystem characteristics and features.
RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES	Vehicle camping, picnicking, beach activities, power-boating, canoeing, kayaking, strolling, historic and nature appreciation, fishing, snowplay, downhill and cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, specialized activities.	Walk-in/boat-in camping, power-boating, hunting, canoeing, kayaking, backpacking, historic and nature appreciation, fishing, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, river rafting, horseback riding, heli-skiing, heli-hiking, and specialized activities.

Special Feature	Wilderness Recreation	Wilderness Conservation
To protect and present significant natural or cultural resources, features or processes because of their special character, fragility and heritage values.	To protect a remote, undisturbed natural landscape and to provide backcountry recreation opportunities dependent on a pristine environment where air access may be permitted to designated sites.	To protect a remote, undisturbed natural landscape and to provide unassisted backcountry recreation opportunities dependent on a pristine environment where no motorized activities will be allowed.
Generally low.	Very low use, to provide solitary experiences and a wilderness atmosphere. Use may be controlled to protect the environment.	Very low use, to provide solitary experiences and a wilderness atmosphere. Use may be controlled to protect the environment.
Various; may require special access permit.	Non-mechanized; except may permit low frequency air access to designated sites; foot, canoe (horses may be permitted).	Non-mechanized (no air access); foot, canoe (horses may be permitted).
Determined by location of special resources; may be surrounded by or next to any of the other zones.	Remote; not easily visited on a day-use basis.	Remote; not easily visited on a day-use basis.
Small; usually less than 2000 hectares.	Large; greater than 5,000 hectares.	Large; greater than 5,000 hectares.
Area defined by biophysical characteristics or the nature and extent of cultural resources (adequate to afford protection).	Defined by ecosystem limits and geographic features. Boundaries will encompass areas of visitor interest for specific activities supported by air access. Will be designated under the *Park Act*.	Defined by ecosystem limits and geographic features. Will be designated under the *Park Act*.
Sight-seeing, historic and nature appreciation. May be subject to temporary closures or permanently restricted access.	Backpacking, canoeing, kayaking, river rafting, nature and historic appreciation, hunting, fishing, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, horseback riding, specialized activities (e.g. caving, climbing).	Backpacking, canoeing, kayaking, river rafting, nature and historic appreciation, fishing, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, horseback riding, specialized activities (e.g. caving, climbing).

	Intensive Recreation	Natural Environment
FACILITIES	May be intensely developed for user convenience. Campgrounds, landscaped picnic/play areas, trail accommodation or interpretative buildings; boat launches, administrative buildings, service compounds, gravel pits, disposal sites, wood lots; parking lots, etc.	Moderately developed for user convenience. Trails, walk-in/boat-in campsites, shelters, accommodation buildings may be permitted; facilities for motorized access e.g. docks, landing strips, fuel storage, etc.
IMPACTS ON NATURAL ENVIRONMENT	Includes natural resource features and phenomena in a primarily natural state but where human presence may be readily visible both through the existence of recreation facilities and of people using the zone. Includes areas of high facility development with significant impact on concentrated areas.	Area where human presence on the land is not normally visible, facility development limited to relatively small areas. Facilities are visually compatible with natural setting.
MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES	Oriented toward maintaining a high quality recreation experience. Intensive management of resource and/or control of visitor activities. Operational facilities designed for efficient operation while remaining unobtrusive to the park visitor.	Oriented to maintaining a natural environment and a high quality recreation experience. Visitor access may be restricted to preserve the recreation experience or to limit impacts. Separation of less compatible recreational activities and transportation modes . Designation of transportation may be necessary to avoid potential conflicts (e.g. horse trails, cycle paths, hiking trails).
EXAMPLES OF ZONING	Campground in Rathtrevor Beach Park; Gibson Pass ski area in E.C. Manning Park.	Core area in Cathedral Park; North beach in Naikoon Park.

Special Feature	Wilderness Recreation	Wilderness Conservation
Interpretative facilities only, resources are to be protected.	Minimal facility development for user convenience and safety, and protection of the environment e.g. trails, primitive campsites, etc. Some basic facilities at access points, e.g. dock, primitive shelter, etc.	None.
None; resources to be maintained unimpaired.	Natural area generally free of evidence of modern human beings. Evidence of human presence is confined to specific facility sites. Facilities are visually compatible with natural setting.	Natural area generally free of evidence of modern human beings.
High level of management protection with ongoing monitoring. Oriented to maintaining resources and, where appropriate , a high quality recreational and interpretative experience. Active or passive management depending on size , location, and nature of the resource. Visitor access may be restricted to preserve the recreation experience and to limit impacts.	Oriented to protecting a pristine environment. Management actions are minimal and not evident . Managed to ensure low visitor use levels. Visitor access may be restricted to protect the natural environment and visitor experience.	Oriented to protecting a pristine environment. Management actions are minimal and not evident . Managed to ensure low visitor use levels. Visitor access may be restricted to protect the natural environment and visitor experience.
Tidepools in Botanical Beach Park; Sunshine Meadows in Mount Assiniboine Park.	Quanchus Mountains Wilderness in Tweedsmuir Park; Wilderness Zone in Spatsizi Park.	Central Valhalla Wilderness in Valhalla Park; Garibaldi Park Nature Conservancy area.